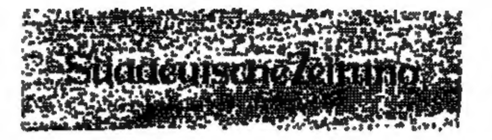
The German Tribune

Hamburg, 6 December 1987
Twenty-sixth year - No. 1302 - By air

A WEEKLY REVIEW OF THE GERMAN PRESS

C 20725 C
ISSN 0016-8858

US-Soviet missiles deal a three-way breakthrough



American Secretary of State George Shultz said about the agreement between him and Moscow Foreign Ministers Edward Shevardnadze on a medium-range missiles deal: "We are extremely satisfied."

Perhaps a typical Shultz-style reaction to an event which in fact merits the label "historic".

The two foreign ministers and, above all, their negotiating teams, who have been trying to hammer out an agreement in this field in Geneva since March 1985, have achieved an absolute novelty in the history of disarmament diplomacy.

In principle at least they have engineered a treaty which, for the first time ever, will not only regulate the balance of power or even only (as in the case of Salt) the expansion of military forces, but whose underlying intention is to actually *eliminate* a specific arms category.

If the treaty is ratified and then put into effect, this will mean roughly 1,500 fewer warheads on the Soviet side and 364 fewer on the American side.

The target period for the scaling down of medium-range missiles in the 500km to 5,000km category to zero level is three years.

The scrapping of entire weapon systems is an unparalleled move.

The agreement to accept an instrument which makes the move possible in the first place, namely the "intrusive verification regime", is equally unprecedented.

All previous disarmament offensives fell through when faced by the latter obstacle.

The crux of any credible disarmament agreement must be a reliable means of ensuring that a country does in fact scrap the weapons in accordance with its treaty commitments.

On-site inspectors are needed in arms factories and arsenals to keep an eye on what has been a country's foremost secret since time immemorial.

The Soviet Union strictly refused to let such "spies" into its country for 65 years.

In Geneva, however, it finally broke with this tradition.

The inspectors will now at least be able to get as far as the gates of the armament factories.

In Wotinsk, for example, where SS 20s are produced.

They will be able to inspect the former SS 20 bases at extremely short notice (six hours)

Both sides will be allowed to conduct such inspections for up to 13 years.

A third and no less historic breakthrough is in the field of "asymmetrical reduction".

In this context Gorbachov's Russia has at least agreed in principle to what the West always (and quite rightly) demanded, namely that whichever side has more of any one arms category should correspondingly raise the figure on the agenda of negotiations.

In line with the sacred principle of equality both sides are scaling down to zero level in the field of INF missiles.

The Soviet Union, however, will have to sacrifice four times as many missiles to do so, since it deployed that many more missiles in this category before the agreement was drawn up.

This precedential case should be turned into a principle.

There is hardly a single arms category — nuclear, chemical or conventional — in which Moscow does not have more in reserve than Washington or even the entire West.

This threefold watershed in the history of international negotiations between the superpowers hides a bitter twofold irony.

First, the toasts proposed in Geneva to celebrate the forthcoming "event" in Washington would have been unnecessary if Moscow had refrained from deploying its SS 20s exactly ten years ago.

Neither public protest by Helmut Schmidt in October 1977 nor the negotiate-first-then-deploy strategy of the Nato twin-track decision in December 1979 were able to prevent their installation.

At a rate of roughly 50 SS 20s per year the Soviets stubbornly carried out their threat, claiming that an "approximate balance" had been achieved after each annual increase.

When the first missile parts arrived in Britain and the Federal Republic of Germany in 1983 Moscow abruptly terminated negotiations.

Second, the "historic achievement" (Shevardnadze), i.e. a zero-level equilibrium, could not have been celebrated at all if those in Britain, the Benelux countries and the Federal Republic of Germany who wanted to prevent missile rearmament at all costs had had their way.

Why should Brezhnev have bothered about a contractual arrangement as long as he had reason to hope that the development in Western European societies might give him what he wanted "free of charge", i.e. without payment in the currency of SS 20s?

Some people in the Federal Republic of Germany as well as in its neighbouring countries would have been satisfied with a "semi-zero" solution, i.e. zero in the West and a few hundred missiles in

Continued on page 3



(Cartoon: Behrendt/Der Tagesspiegel)

IN THIS ISSUE

Hopes that the pact will come to mean a wider peace

The term "partnership" was used during the press conferences by Washington Secretary of State, George Shultz, and the Moscow Foreign Minister, Edward Shevardnadze, after reaching agreement on a medium-range missiles disarmament pact.

The expression reflects hopes that the next phase of American-Soviet relations will be much more than the co-existence of the Eisenhower-Khrushchev years or the detente policy through which Richard Nixon broke the ice in US relations with China.

Neither President Reagan's friends in Europe nor members of his own political party expected such a radical and swift turn of events.

Some senators belonging to the conservative wing of the Republic Party have threatened to express their displeasure at the new agreement by delaying ratification.

However, it is generally expected that the INF agreement which Reagan and Gorbachov intend signing in Washington on this month will be ratified.

The Democrats support the agreement and know that public opinion in America and probably throughout the world equates the word "disarmament" with the concept of a stable peace.

It is fair to assume that the contours of the current and planned steps towards disarmament were already outlined during the Reykjavik conference.

The hesitance Shultz displayed before his last visit to Geneva was probably more a case of playing to the gallery than an indication of serious content-related obstacles in negotations.

Admittedly, the superpowers will still have to answer important questions regarding what they refer to as the first steps towards the disarmament of medium-range missiles (which only account for four per cent of the nuclear arsenals anyway) and the fifty per cent reduction of long-range missiles.

Even with half of the current arsenal levels, critics claim, there would still be ten times more nuclear destruction pot-

Continued on page 9

■ WORLD AFFAIRS

More than just a matter of missiles

This article was written for Rheinischer Merkur/Christ und Welt by Volker Rühe, CDU foreign-policy expert and a member of the Bundestag.

Disarmament will be the main item on the agenda of the third summit meeting between Ronald Reagan and Mikhail Gorbachov; above all, the signing of an agreement on the worldwide elimination of land-based medium-range missiles.

One can only hope that the summit in Washington between 7 and 10 December will also bring about improvements in the field of confidence-building and not just turn into a "missiles summit".

Confidence-building measures cannot and should not be limited to the military field alone.

Measures such as on-site observations and inspections of manoeuvres are an important means of checking whether treaty stipulations are being observed. This enhances mutual trust.

Yet irrespective of the positive developments in this field since the Stockholm Conference on Confidence-Building Measures and Disarmament in Europe this process must go much further.

What is needed now is fundamental trust between both sides, since this is the key to more far-reaching disarmament.

The Washington summit, therefore, should also try and stimulate other activities, such as exchanges of pupils and students or trainee exchange programmes in industry.

So far there have been virtually no exchanges of pupils between the Soviet Union and the West.

In the context of German-Soviet relations, for example, there has only been one return visit by a class of Soviet school-children.

The situation is not that much better in the field of student exchanges.

There are only roughly 1,000 Soviet students outside of the USSR, most of them in socialist countries.

So far the Soviet Union has not given official approval to an exchange of trainees.

By way of comparison, there are roughly 2,000 students from the People's Republic of China at German universities and over 500 Chinese trainees in German firms.

Fostering informal and uncomplicated contacts between young people is one of the best ways of reducing prejudice and mistrust.

During their visits abroad, therefore, young peeople should stay in host families and not in hotels or separate lodgings.

This might help them gather the practical experience needed for *perestroika* in the Soviet Union or the setting up of joint ventures between Moscow and western companies.

The creation of fundamental trust not only encompasses improvements such as being able to travel more freely or allowing families to be united.

As opposed to human rights, improvements in this field are dependent on arbitrary decisions by the state.

The creation of fundamental trust, therefore, must also include the constitutional specification, safeguarding and observance of human rights.

The Soviet Union must acknowledge this aspect of confidence-building, especially in view of the planned human rights conference in Moscow.

The further development of the process of restructuring in the field of Soviet domestic and foreign policy is also highly significant for the improvement of East-West relations.

The resultant opportunities should be carefully used in the interests of both sides.

At the same time, however, the difficulties and risks inherent to this long-term process of political, social and economic restructuring should not be underrated.

Perestroika is still in its early stages and a final verdict on its possible success or failure cannot yet be given.

An initial appraisal, however, can already be made.

The economic situation in the Soviet Union is so serious that the need for restructuring is undisputed by the entire political and military leadership.

Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachov, however, must take into account differences of opinion on the extent of his reform course and make the corresponding concessions — especially in the field of social liberalisation.

Following the extremely positive initial response to *perestroika* the Soviet population now has its reservations and doubts.

These result, for example, from stricter controls of working conditions, price increases, and, above all, from the uncertainty regarding the new and completely unaccustomed demand for greater personal responsibility and independence.

In the long run *glasnost* and appeals for greater perseverance will not be able to sustain the motivation to back the new approach.

Personal incentives, such as better consumption opportunities, better services, guaranteed human and civil rights or the possibility of private ownership, must be created.

The success of *perestroika* will also depend on the extent to which Soviet leaders are willing to extend the restructuring measures introduced so far by effecting an economic policy reform programme which includes elements such as price reform, gradual decentralisation and the creation of a market.

One major prerequisite for the success of *perestroika* is also the willingness to open up the economy and society to the West.

The West cannot be interested in a Soviet system which is inflexible or poses a military threat.

A change in the structure of Soviet society to enable greater social and economic openness, efficiency and more competitiveness is of vital importance.

It is in the interests of the citizens of the Soviet Union that the principle of freedom, openness and transparency is strengthened and its effects experienced by all.

The international challenges to mankind; such as the protection of natural resources and the relief of hunger and suffering in developing countries, cannot be solved by one country alone or via disputes between countries, but only via cooperation between East and West.

Every effort should be made, therefore, to prevent forces which seek to impair the process of liberalisation and restructuring in the Soviet Union.

Wherever possible, the West must back developments which have already

Continued on page 3

Western security experts find a surprising unanimity

Surprising unanimity was demonstrated by German, American, British and French strategy and security experts during an international conference in Bonn on the "Perspectives of East-West Relations".

The experts criticised themselves and the West for the lack of a concept safeguarding adequate defensive ability in Western Europe once agreement has been reached on the double-zero solution.

As the conference was sponsored by a Stuttgart-based business association the conference venue was the Baden-Württemberg representative mission in Bonn.

Under the chairmanship of the former supreme commander of the Allied Land Forces Central Europe, General Franz-Joseph Schulze (retired) the professors Werner Kaltefleiter, Robert L. Pfaltzgraff, Jean-Marie Benoist and Gerald Frost voiced their theses.

These four experts are the heads of institutes for security policy, foreign poilicy analysis, European defence and international relations including strategic studies in Kiel, Washington, Paris and London.

Observers from various political parties and several Bonn ministries were among the conferees.

For many years the Europeans urged the USA to show greater flexibility in arms control negotiations.

Europeans were then surprised, said Professor Kaltefleiter, by the "boldness of the American President" in the wake of the 1986 summit meeting between President Reagan and Soviet leader Gorbachov in Reykjavik.

Criticism

Today, Europeans support the underlying intentions of the expected agreement in December, even though this intention is hardly reconcilable with European security interests.

General Schulze criticised the euphoria of governments and the public as well as the disregard of Nato's conceptual combination of deterrence and detente.

Kaltefleiter praised three new elements of the process which will very soon bring about true disarmament instead of just arms limitation.

For the first time an entire category of nuclear weapons will be scrapped.

This may be the first time that the Soviet Union removes more weapon systems than the West.

However, said Kaltefleiter, "the risk of a limited war in Europe will be greater."

Kaltefleiter is convinced that, if all the nuclear weapons of the two superpowers with a range of between 500km and 1,000km as well as between 1,000km and 5,000km (double zero) are removed and only short-range missiles deployed in Europe, the threat for the Federal Republic of Germany will be greater than for Britain, France, Spain and Portugal.

This will deal a severe blow to solidarity between Europeans.

At the same time, however, apart from its superiority in the conventional field the Soviet Union will deploy new variable-range SS 25 missiles.

DER TAGESSPIEGEL

Kaltefleiter therefore advises American Senate to ratify the agreement with Moscow, but not to start removing medium-range missiles until the structural non-aggression ability of Warsaw Pact countries is guaranteed.

"We could insist that the agreement will only then take effect when the conventional imbalance has been redressed," said Pfaltzgraff.

Professor Benoist, on the other hand, is not sure that the US Senate will ever ratify the agreement.

He would like to see the incorporation of provisions ensuring the control of the reduction of nuclear weapons over several years.

Gerald Frost expressed his concern about a phenomenon which, at least mathematically, is impossible: a multiplication of zeros.

He now expects Moscow to call for a zero solution for cruise missiles with conventional warheads as well as for all French and British nuclear weapons.

"Opposition is already urgently needed against a third zero solution," said Pfaltzgraff.

In his opinion, the Soviet Union has not abandoned its objective of denuclearising Western Europe, which would trigger a decoupling of Europe from America.

"The West still has no plan for the period following the agreement on medium-range missiles," Pfaltzgraff warned.

"The architecture of deterrence," said Professor Benoist, "is in jeopardy."

He referred to illusions, weaknesses and even decadence and "intellectual traps" in democracies, which could reduce the West's defensive ability.

Benoist was the most ardent advocate of a critical stance towards the Soviet Union and never doubting the fact that Europe is coupled to America.

This relationship, he said, is vital for Europeans.

He also urged the governments in Bonn, London, Rome and Paris to harmonise Nato's European mainstay and European defence policy.

With reference to his own country Benoist explained that there is a growing willingness to place French facilities under Allied control.

He suggested that the Alliance redefine its role in the period without medium-range missiles with the aim of developing a global strategy in a "real world" rather than a world of "daydreams".

Rudolf Strauch

(Der Tagesspiegel, Berlin, 22 November 1987)

The German Tribune

Friedrich Reinecke Verlag GmbH, 3-4 Hartwicusstrasse, D-2000 Hamburg 76, Tel.: 22 85 1, Telex: 02-14733

Editor-in-chief: Otto Heinz. Editor: Alexander Anthony. English language sub-editor: Simon Burnett — Distribution manager: Georgine Picone

Advertising rates list No. 15
Annual subscription DM 45

Printed by CW Niemeyer-Druck, Hameln.

Distributed in the USA by: MASS MAILINGS, Inc., 540 West 24th Street, New York, N.Y. 10011.

Articles in THE GERMAN TRIBUNE are translated from the original text and published by agreement with leading newspapers in the Federal Republic of Germany.

In all correspondence please quote your subscription number which appears on the wrapper, between asterisks, above your address.

■ HOME AFFAIRS

Bundestag budget debate gets off to a colourless start

"They want a better tomorrow. But, by doing nothing, they are preventing today from being better and not learning from the mistakes of yesterday." That sounds like it could be the Social Democrat leader in the Bundestag, Hans-Jochen Vogel, criticising the government.

But it wasn't. It was a Christian Democrat, Rudolf Seiters, speaking in the debate over the 1988 budget proposals.

Seiters' remark was his way of saying that the SPD's economic policy remedies are useless.

It demonstrates the interchangeability of methods used by political parties to imply the infallibility of their own opinions and arguments.

Such *bons mots* may make it easier to listen to the constant reiteration of familiar positions, but they don't change political realities.

The beginning of the traditionally four-day debate on the federal budget was not marked by political or rhetoric highlights. All in all, it was pretty colourless.

The planned budget figure for 1988 is DM275.1bn. Politicians from all parties in the Bundestag are busy trying to draw the right conclusions from the depressing events of recent months, the

Frankfurter Rundschau

political scandal in Schleswig-Holstein, the murder of two policemen during a demonstration in Frankfurt and the squat in Hamburg's Hafenstrasse.

For the time being at least less attention is being paid to campaigning for next year's state election in Baden-Württemberg and Schleswig-Holstein. Parties are more interested in regaining lost trust.

Chancellor Helmut Kohl took this into account in his reply to the restrained criticism levelled against his policies by Opposition leader Vogel by admitting that the CDU/CSU certainly have no cause to be self-righteous in the wake of events in Schleswig-Holstein. This was a sensible move.

Verbal humility and public self-criticism, however, do not turn politicians into mendicant friars.

At the moment politicians seem to be refraining from trying to club their rivals with all the means at their disposal.

But how long will they be able to resist the temptation? By January next year at the very latest the struggle for power in the two *Land* elections will begin in earnest and with it the return to the usual acridity of political conflicts in Bonn.

The FDP, however, may be obliged to jump the gun.

Chancellor Kohl tersely but unambiguously made it clear that the FDP will have to do more than just approve of making the wearing of masks at demonstrations a crime to restore harmony within the government coalition over law-and-order policy.

By calling upon the FDP to help reintroduce the former breach of the peace provision the Chancellor demonstrated his support for the CSU position and the CSU Interior Minister Friedrich Zimmermann.

Kohl also had an eye on popular sentiment in this field.

In his speech FDP chairman Martin Bangemann had difficulty reconciling his respect for the successful efforts by Hamburg's mayor Klaus von Dohnanyi in the Hafenstrasse dispute in Hamburg and the statement that a democracy which tolerates violence admits its political bankruptcy.

All in all, West Germans are comparatively well-off. The fact that there are over two million unemployed people unlikely to find any work in the foreseeable future remains an unacceptable fact of life in this rich country.

Eghard Mörbitz

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 25 November 1987)

Breakthrough

Continued from page 1

the East. Irrespective of the relief at the outcome of the Geneva talks one should not forget that strong nerves and resolution are just as important in international *realpolitik* as the willingness to compromise and visionary powers, especially where the *ultima ratio* of nuclear weapons are concerned.

The agreement in Geneva could become an excellent yardstick for the future of disarmament once the next 97 per cent of the 50,000 nuclear weapons spread out throughout the world are on the agenda.

This process, however, will be much more difficult, since these are not primarily weapons "in and for Europe".

The missiles at stake then have an incredible destruction potential and directly affect the power and security of the superpowers themselves.

Josef Joffe

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, Munich, 26 November 1987)

Continued from page 2

occurred in the Soviet Union itself. The West has already made its own contribution in the form of its open social system and its self-imposed non-aggression capacity.

Especially with respect to such a long-term active policy of dialogue German foreign and security policy must ensure that it has firm principles and is credibly structured.

This primarily means that fundamental differences which still exist between East and West are not blurred.

Phrases used by the SPD, such as "common security" or "security partnership with the East", give the impression that the difference between the free countries of the West and the Communist countries of the East can be reduced to the difference between Pershing 2s and SS 20s.

We do not need enemy concepts. On the contrary, existing concepts of this kind (e.g. as recently formulated by the SED) must be eliminated.

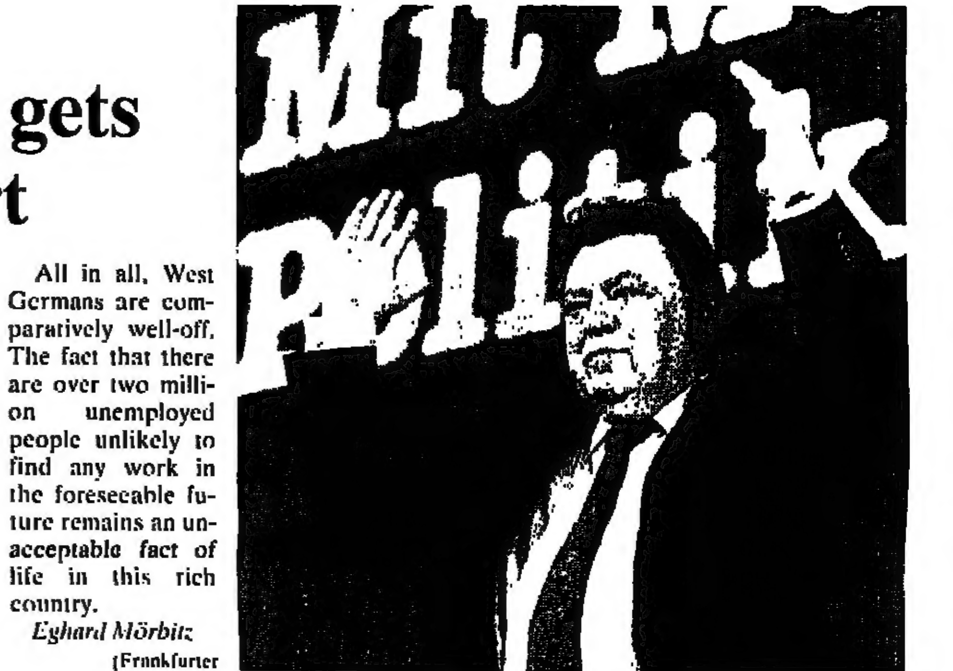
Nevertheless, the need to address the whys and wherefores of security remains.

As long as the antagonism between East and West continues it will be impossible to view the East as our security partner.

The East is, however, our partner in negotiations for more mutual security, growing trust and a detente which can be personally experienced by individuals in both East and West.

Volker Rühe

(Rheinischer Merkur/Christ und Welt, Bonn, 27 November 1987)



Strauss at congress: no one else in sight. (Photo: Sven Simon)

CSU lets Strauss know: not all are pleased with him

Bavarian Premier Franz Josef Strauss has been re-elected leader of the CSU for the 15th time.

But he received only 90 per cent of the vote at the 51st party congress in Munich. Only. It's all relative. Two years ago he picked up 98.8 per cent. So this year's vote amounts to a warning.

Many of his numerous friends and admirers expected him to get even fewer votes. The significance the vote can be seen by looking at other bad years.

Strauss received only 86.8 per cent in 1963 after his resignation as Bonn Defence Minister in the wake of the Spiegel affair (in which he ordered a raid on the offices of the magazine *Der Spiegel* after it ran a story based on secret information); and only 77.1 per cent four years ago after he had arranged a billion-mark credit deal for East Germany (which some party members found hard to accept of a man regarded as a hard-liner in dealings with East Bloc nations).

If Strauss had not told the 1,000 or so delegates last week in Munich that he had heard the criticism of him — even if he did not accept its justification — the result might have been even worse.

But no one should start thinking the end is nigh for Strauss. He may well have had to face up to growing criticism, but he's still the undisputed number-one man in the CSU.

He calls the tune, discordant as it may occasionally sound. Although he is no longer such a master of rhetoric, he still determines the course of party policy. There is still no one in sight who could replace him.

His possible successors, Max Streibl, Gerold Tandler and Theo Waigel, have had little opportunity to promote a clear-cut image in the larger-than-life shadow of their powerful chairman.

It seems doubtful whether this kind of personality cult will be good for the party in the long run.

Strauss should prepare the CSU as early as possible for the post-Straussian era to ensure that the party remains what it is today: the most united political party in Germany, perhaps even in Europe (as the CSU itself often claims).

The CSU would run this risk if it imitates the self-righteous behaviour of its chairman. The CSU, and this, of course, above all means its leader, always claims to have the right solutions for problems large and small.

Whether in the field of external or internal security, the content or timing of the tax reform, Strauss — and the CSU trailing behind him — knows how to put things right.

In the opinion of the CSU, however, the other parties, including the coalition partners in Bonn, the CDU and FDP, haven't got a clue.

This, the CSU claims, is why the rest of the Federal Republic of Germany is not so well-off as Bavaria.

The vote confirming Strauss as party leader, however, which was not just a result of one or other of the chairman's verbal *faux pas*, is a signal that not all CSU party colleagues share this view.

The 184,567 members of the CSU are undoubtedly not confronted by the

STUTTGARTER NACHRICHTEN

same "loss of form" as the 700,000 members of the sister party CDU.

Yet a feeling of uncertainty is beginning to spread in the CSU too.

The loss of voters at regional and local level together with the lack of concepts able to solve problems in the agricultural sector and on the job market are giving the CSU a few headaches at grass-roots level.

Just like their friends in the troubled CDU the CSU needs political success, even if this is via the dispute within the Bonn coalition.

This is one major reason why the CSU is unlikely to back down on its stance in decisions on law and order or the reduction of health costs. Yet at the moment the CDU and FDP need have no fear of their Bavarian partner.

In the past tougher words were spoken by the CSU than during the 51st party congress.

The CSU has clearly formulated its demands for the Bonn coalition.

However, as CSU leaders know that the party's grass roots has had enough of the coalition dispute they are unlikely to continue it unnecessarily.

Strauss cannot fail to have noticed that the growing number of votes against him also results from his permanent quarrels with the FDP.

Heinz Peter Finke

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 23 November 1987)

Protest at talks

Britain's Prince Charles opened the second North Sea conference in London. It was held to discuss the ecological condition of the North Sea and the changes it undergoes as a result of pollution.

It also reviewed measures envisaged to improve the quality of the sea as a natural resource and living environment.

Attended by the Belgian, Danish, Dutch, French, German, Norwegian and Swedish Environment Ministers and the European Commission, the conference was chaired by British Environment Secretary Nicholas Ridley.

His German opposite number, Klaus Töpfer, was particularly keen to see the North Sea declared a special, or protected, area.

"At the very least we need a cut-off date by which incineration and pumping of sewage at sea is to be brought to a halt," Professor Töpfer said.

The Federal Republic is to stop dumping waste in the North Sea from 1989. The Bonn government is also concerned, as a precautionary measure, to limit toxin output at source to the lowest level that is technically feasible.

Another important item on the conference agenda was the final storage of radioactive waste. Professor Töpfer was keen to prohibit dumping of contaminated waste in the North Sea.

The host country, Britain, held a more restrained view, warning against exaggerating environmental protection.

Much had already been done to reduce the quantities of toxins dumped at sea, said a senior Environment Department official, and the Thames was now as clean as it had last been a century ago.

Static and vehicle emission had also been reduced. Mr Ridley warned against jumping sky-high; it would be better to make arrangements with which all adjacent countries were agreeable than to strive for unattainable perfection.

The British government did not plan to take action until the source of pollution and its effect had been scientifically proven.

Prince Charles said the North Sea had become a rubbish dump in a mere 100 years. It was pointless to test the environment to the point of destruction.

"While we are awaiting the doctor's diagnosis," he said, "the patient might die." Little time was left in which to act.

Professor Töpfer noted that pollution levels in the Dogger Bank and northern North Sea areas were much higher than had been assumed.

"It is not a matter of Environment Ministers telling each other which country is responsible for the highest percentage of pollution that affects the North Sea," he said. Joint coordinated action was what was needed.

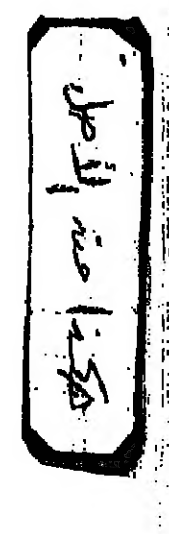
Greenpeace and the World Wildlife Fund were afraid that the North Sea conference would merely pay lip service to the environment rather than take protective measures.

Economic feasibility provisions would be to blame, with nearly all delegations insisting on them and thus hampering long-overdue moves.

Two hundred environmental activists staged a protest demonstration in front of the building where the conference was held, blocking the street with drums of toxic material.

The police made 24 arrests; the demonstrators arrested included six Germans.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 25 November 1987)



■ THE ENVIRONMENT

International meeting considers what to do about the sick North Sea

The North Sea has seen better days. In the Brothers Grimm fairy tale "The Fisherman and His Wife" there is a talking fish that works wonders, just like a fairy godmother.

Maybe that is what today's North Sea, hard-hit by pollution, urgently needs: a fairy godmother. It certainly needs one more badly than the fisherman and his grasping wife Ilsebill.

Pollution of the sea that once housed the miraculous flounder has reached an alarming level. The North Sea is sick, and no wonder, given the many uses to which adjacent countries put, not to say exploit, it.

Their fishing fleets take five per cent of their catch from its murky waters even though the North Sea accounts for only 0.16 per cent of the seven seas.

Shipping between the Shetlands and the English Channel is the busiest in the world. Dredgers excavate sand and aggregate from the seabed. Oil firms pump North Sea oil and gas.

Last but not least, millions of people spend their holidays in North Sea coastal resorts from Esbjerg to Calais and from Aberdeen to Dover.

When holidaymakers walk along the beach they inevitably come across signs that show what a bad way the North Sea is in.

There are ducks with feathers smeared in oil that constantly try to preen themselves and a fringe of jetsam constantly cast ashore: plastic bags and bottles, tin cans and bits of wood.

Even the uninitiated can hardly fail to see for themselves another use to which adjacent countries put the North Sea. They use it as a garbage dump.

The waste of a "no deposit, no return" society that is thrown overboard and washed ashore, totalling an estimated 9,000 tonnes a year, is but the tip of the iceberg.

Pollution that is less readily apparent — toxic heavy metals, organic chlorine compounds, radioactive particles — can be much more deadly.

The North Sea also suffers from a surfeit of nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphates that lead to a proliferation of plankton.

Offenders who dump — or pump — their waste into the sea rely on nature's capacity for self-purification and the effect of dilution.

But the toxins are not evenly distributed in the roughly 47,000 cubic kilometres of water. That has the advantage that some areas suffer less from heavy metal and chemical pollution, but others are even harder hit.

Experts constantly emphasise that the North Sea cannot be seen as a whole. Niels-Peter Rühl of the German Hydrographic Institute, Hamburg, says only parts of the North Sea are seriously affected.

It isn't yet a dead sea, but a narrow strip off the North Sea coast from the English Channel to the Skagerrak has to cope with particularly heavy pollution.

The currents are such that most of the toxins that pour into the North Sea from the Schelde, the Rhine, the Weser, the Ems and the Elbe are concentrated in this gigantic streak of effluent.

Yet there are signs that this pollution is gradually gaining ground. A warning has been sounded by scientists associated with two large-scale projects; they include Hamburg University staff.

Water, fish, seabed fauna and sediment pollution, they report, is concentrated not only in the southern reaches of the North Sea but also in central waters further out to sea. A new item reported by the Hamburg institute last year is typical of the progressive decline of the sea that is our maritime neighbour. Chemical analysis of North Sea water by Hydrographic Institute staff was said to reveal a Lindan count twice as high in 1985 as in 1981. Traces of Lindan, a toxic pesticide, can now be found from Heligoland to the North Cape. Niels-Peter Rühl says chlorinated hydrocarbons, which include Lindan, DDT and the ubiquitous polychlorinated biphenyls, are particularly dangerous — a chemical time-bomb. Chlorinated hydrocarbons are particularly alarming because micro-organisms find them hard to degrade and they are enriched in fatty tissue.

The North Sea rubbish dump
in tonnes per year
Zinc Lead Chromium Copper Nickel Arsenic Cadmium Mercury
Surface currents · Polluted rivers · Radioactive materials · Industrial areas · Waste disposal · Burning · Oil · Badly polluted areas

Substances that are suspected of causing cancer thus make their way along the food chain from plankton via smaller marine creatures to fish; finally landing in the food we eat.

Scientists say polychlorinated biphenyls, which are found in paint and plastics, are to blame for the decline in the North Sea's seal population.

Toxins also directly affect fish. Young embryos of plaice and flounder caught off the coast of Schleswig-Holstein and Denmark are deformed to a alarming degree, says the World Wildlife Fund's German section.

"In May 1984," it adds, "about 50 per cent of dab in the German Bight could be seen to be sick."

Environmentalists also make it clear that individual fish diseases cannot be attributed to individual toxins. The multiplicity of toxins is what is too much for herrings, eels and plaice.

Pollution statistics that were the official scientific document submitted to the London conference indicate how complicated the mixture is that industry, agriculture and sewage farms pour into the sea.

It includes 50 to 70 tonnes of mercury a year, between 6,000 and 11,000 tonnes of lead, 4,200 and 5,000 tonnes of chromium and 150 to 350 tonnes of cadmium. These appalling quantities of heavy metal find their way into the sea by the most varied means. Some are emptied into the sea by the rivers, others are precipitated from the atmosphere and yet others are pumped out to sea by way of waste disposal.

Sewage sludge, flue dust, dredger waste and industrial effluent may contain relatively small amounts of heavy metal, but such large quantities are pumped into the North Sea that they mount up.

In 1985 Britain pumped 1.7 million tons of solid industrial waste and five million tons of sewage sludge into the sea.

North Sea countries, including Britain, also disposed in this way of 2.1 million tonnes of liquid industrial waste, 1.9 million tonnes of which was effluent from the manufacture of titanium dioxide, and 77 million tonnes of sediment dredged from ports and navigable rivers.

Environmentalists take a particularly dim view of the incineration of toxic chemical waste at sea. In 1985 the *Vulcanus II* and the *Vesta* incinerated 100,000 tonnes, mainly chlorinated hydrocarbons, in a closely-defined area off the Dutch coast.

Fifty-five per cent of the waste they disposed of in this way came from the Federal Republic of Germany. Incinerators may burn at temperatures of over 1,000° C, but they are definitely not the best way to deal with the problem.

Only recently scientists measured high concentrations of hexachlorbenzole, a highly toxic organic chlorine compound, in sediment taken from the seabed in the incineration area.

They assume the toxin is reproduced in the hot furnaces as a byproduct of waste incineration.

Incineration at sea may only be to blame for a fraction of the overall pollution of the North Sea, but Rühl sees no reason why it should not be brought to a halt.

But the main source of pollution, he says, is the contents of river water that flows into the sea and the atmospheric pollution that is precipitated and finds its way into the seawater as rainfall.

"The North Sea's problems," he says, "can only be solved inland." Something must certainly be done, and done soon. Gone are the days when a fairy godmother gave one three wishes.

Klaus Bachmann

(Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt, Hamburg, 22 November 1987)

■ PERSPECTIVE

The Boat People: a town's Vietnamese settlers look back over seven years

The first bus-load of Vietnamese refugees arrived in Stolberg, near Aachen, seven years ago.

The warden of their first home, a children's hostel, remembers how they were loaded off the bus "almost like livestock".

The warden, who didn't want to give his name, explained how he helped the refugees who suddenly turned up in Stolberg as a result of the quota regulation for the national and regional allocation of refugees.

He said: "They had absolutely nothing. The children didn't even have shirts or underpants."

Many were sick, undernourished and there lungs were damaged from the effects of the sun and saltwater during the days and weeks they had spent trying to flee from Vietnam in fishing boats.

The warden tried to gain the sympathy of local businessmen and made sure the refugees got what they needed.

Last month, Vietnamese refugees met in Troisdorf. The warden said at the meeting that to today, "they all have a car which was not brought on credit. They've all got a place to live and a job. They are quiet and cultured people."

Asked whether there are no problems at all between Stolberg and its Vietnamese residents, the warden shook his head and said that "they are often sad and sometimes homesick", but otherwise "they are always friendly."

Are the Vietnamese more readily accepted and integrated by West German society than other refugee groups?

Or does their constant friendliness and permanent smile hide what is really going on?

Roughly 30,000 Vietnamese live in Germany, some of them since the first rescue ship of the German-French Emergency Doctors Committee, the *Cap Anamur*, fished them out of the sea in 1979.

Most were so desperate that they ran the risk of trying to sail to freedom huddled together on a ship ten metres long and two metres wide.

Their ships were often attacked by pirates, they were plundered, the women were raped, and they seemed certain to die of hunger and thirst.

Franz König, today a specialist in internal medicine in Bremen, was a doctor on the *Cap Anamur* for just over seven months in 1980.

He remembers all too well how exhausted and injured the refugees were after many days and nights of sitting crouched in a small corner of a boat before the rescue ship saved their lives.

There was no sign of this misery during the weekend get-together in Troisdorf.

Several thousand people came along and the general impression gained was one of people with well-dressed children bubbling over with happiness and a love of life.

The whole event seemed to document a successful attempt to integrate foreigners and enable them to share a slice of social prosperity.

However, a person-to-person talk with some of the refugees revealed some of the problems beneath the surface.

Tuong Vi Ta, for example, a young mother with two children soon had tears in her eyes when she started talking about her everyday experiences in her "home town" of Saarbrücken.



She is a member of church choir there, helps out in a baby-sitting institution and has German friends.

Her husband works as an electrical engineer.

Although everything seems perfect at first glance she explained how their family soon found a nice place to live in a two-family house, in which the landlord and his family lived downstairs.

In retrospect Tuong Vi Ta feels that the landlord and his wife were glad to have found a cheap babysitter. Mrs Ta had to keep an eye on their children three times a week.

Three weeks before the refugee gathering in Troisdorf, however, she put her foot down and refused.

During our chat it became clear that she was upset most at the fact that the German family did not notice itself that it was asking too much of her.

She immediately added, however, that she is extremely grateful to the Germans who had welcomed her.

All the Vietnamese refugees at the Troisdorf meeting probably felt this way.

Yet, as Franz König explained, none of them would tell journalists how they really feel.

The initiator of the *Cap Anamur* rescue trips, journalist Rupert Neudeck from Cologne, remarked that "there is a whole load of homesickness beneath the surface".

According to Franz König most Vietnamese drift into a period of depression, which can last several years, following their initial euphoria.

"This is something you hardly notice," König explained. The depression often showed itself as a pronounced state of lethargy.

"The only thing that does happen now and again is that they quietly commit suicide," said König.

The problems confronting these people are connected with things which would make some people smile.

With winter, for example, and everything associated with memories of winter back home in Vietnam.

Forty-eight year-old Huynh Thoang feels sad when he thinks about how people dance on the streets of Vietnam at Christmas in summer temperatures.

"Here," he complains, "people go to church and then back home".

König's wife, who is also a doctor and who was saved by the *Cap Anamur* in 1980, often asks her husband "where are all the people?", since (as opposed to the situation in Vietnam) no-one stands around on the streets, talking and having fun.

The Vietnamese can count themselves lucky in the Federal Republic, since they are not lumped together with those foreigners who are disliked by some Germans.

The remarks Rupert Neudeck heard during a taxi ride several years ago following an attack on a home for asylum seekers in Hamburg, during which one Vietnamese refugee was killed, typifies the distinction made:

"What a terrible thing to happen, killing such a nice Vietnamese boy. If they's only killed a Turk as well, it wouldn't have been so bad...," said the taxi driver.

These "pleasant" Asian neighbours are politically, socially and historically so much more similar to Germans than other foreigners, Neudeck explains.

A survey has shown that the refugees from Vietnam generally belonged to the middle classes, are educated and qualified, and thus find integration easier.

There must be some reason for Vietnam's reputation as the "Prussia of Asia".

As Neudeck explains, many West Germans sympathise with the reasons the Vietnamese give for fleeing the country: anti-Communism.

"For right-wingers in this country these have always been the right refugees," said Neudeck. "For left-wingers always the wrong ones."

Even during such a brief gathering as in Troisdorf there were numerous manifestations of anti-communism.

Various associations set up their stands in the entrance hall of the building where the meeting was held, warning visitors not to send parcels back home or take advantage of the possibility which has existed since January to visit Vietnam.

This, the associations insisted, would only benefit the Communist regime.

The discussion with Tuong Vi Ta, the young mother from Saarbrücken, made it clear that she would never forget how the Communists robbed her family of everything it owned, taking a hotel and estates away from her grandfather.

She is satisfied with the CDU government here and glad that the Federal Republic of Germany is integrated in the Nato system.

She is frightened, she said, of "the Russians".

Thoang also feels uneasy when he sees people on the street demonstrating for disarmament and is convinced that "Communists" are behind it all.

Those Vietnamese who took the risk and made it to the West know from personal experience what Communist rule means.

Most of the Vietnamese community at the Troisdorf meeting were in some way linked with the US-backed puppet government in Vietnam before the Communist took over power.

Thuong, for example, was an army officer and was sent to a re-education centre for four years by the Communists.

Or Huan Huu Nguyen, a former helicopter pilot, who was sentenced to three years imprisonment for fighting the Veitcong and then subjected to endless discrimination. Kim, Franz König's

Continued on page 13

Problems for teenage East Bloc migrants

Elzbieta, a 17-year-old girl who came to Germany from Poland a year ago, says: "People here keep themselves more to themselves. They have more airs and graces. We lived differently, more simply."

To begin with, she often felt homesick, but that improved as time went by. Most teenage migrants from East Bloc countries tell a similar tale.

After a transitional period in a refugee camp they leave their families to attend German language courses in another town, knowing full well that they will stand no chance at school or work if they can't speak the language.

Like Elzbieta, they spend a year in a home for young people. Yet although they live alongside young people of their own age who grew up in Germany they seldom make friends with them.

They almost always stick together. When they come back from language classes they speak nothing but Polish or Russian — or whatever their first language was.

"They next to never make friends with other girls at the home," says Sister Zeleste, who runs a Roman Catholic home for girls in Bonn.

They find it hard to make friends even after several years in Germany. They see the Federal Republic as a foreign country. They fail to get on with young people of their own age who were born and bred in Germany.

Psychologist Line Kossolapow, who made a survey of teenage migrants for the Bonn Youth and Family Affairs Ministry, says migrants' children feel German schooling is too liberal.

They also feel young people in the Federal Republic lack community spirit.

Asked what they miss, one in three say they have no problems. Just as many admit they have been unable to make friends.

Many regret having lost close family ties and other close relationships. None complain of material difficulties.

One reason why they find it so hard to acclimatise is that they are not adequately prepared for life in Germany.

They expected life in the Federal Republic to be better and freer but had no real idea what that might mean in detail.

They were often disappointed by the reality they then encountered. "I imagined it as being so great," says Maria, 18, from Rumania. Hers is a typical comment!

Thirty per cent of teenage migrants, Frau Kossolapow says, were expecting the Federal Republic to be a land flowing with milk and honey.

Ministry figures list 1.3 million ethnic German migrants from East Bloc countries between 1950 and 1986. By the end of August 1987 they were joined by a further 43,324, or twice as many as in the first eight months of last year.

They mainly come from Poland and Rumania, with smaller numbers from Hungary, Yugoslavia, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia and the Soviet Union.

This year DM135m in Ministry funds was earmarked for measures to ensure their material well-being, such as housing, furniture grants and language courses.

Their accommodation in homes while they attend language courses is also subsidised. Family Affairs Minister Rita Süssmuth insisted on this spending not being capped as part of budget expenditure cuts.

It was, indeed, increased in view of the growing numbers of young people needing it. "This work remains important and needs to be supported," she says.

An estimated 3.3 million ethnic Germans still live in Eastern Europe. Over 250,000 a year of them apply for exit permits to resettle in the Federal Republic.

Local authority and private advice

Continued on page 7

■ THE ECONOMY

Call for cuts in subsidies and other spending

The Commission for an Assessment of Economic Development, better known as the Five Wise Men, is an independent body set up in 1963. The five experts on the commission are appointed by the President on the recommendation of the Bonn government. Their task is to assess the country's economy. They look at how best to keep prices stable and employment full. They examine balance of payments and growth. The chairman is Professor Hans Karl Schneider of Kiel University.

The Five Wise Men call in their latest report for more consistent growth policies. They want to see an improvement to tax reform, strict limits to public spending, more flexible wage agreements and an end to subsidies for outdated industrial sectors.

Following the stock-market collapse, economic policies should be "more dependable than they have been."

They call on the government to work towards international cooperation so that the imbalances in the world can be rectified with the least disruption to the international economy possible.

By firmness and persuasiveness the sense of uncertainty in the country must be counteracted.

The economy has not been as "dynamic and flexible as it should have been in view of the extensive changes in production and marketing."

It has been impossible to balance lack of growth in some sectors by gains in others so that the necessary number of jobs could be provided. Continuous lack of growth comes about from "the delay in tackling structural changes."

The stock exchange collapse that brought in its wake heavy losses, does not indicate any serious disturbance to the course of economic events.

But there is still the danger "that many will feel insecure and not know how they should react to these events."

Should that lead to further turbulence, the Five said in their report, economic forecasts must be sharply corrected downwards.

Specifically the Five said that it was not enough to reduce taxes. Tax reductions must be accompanied by a reduction in the public sector share in gross national product.

The times when considerable progress could be made in budgetary consolidation are long past. They forecast that the public borrowing requirement for 1987 would again increase, so that there would be no room for manouevre for tax cuts.

Unless there were basic changes in public spending policies there would be no chances to cut taxes in the future either, they claimed.

The Five warned that the success in budget consolidation achieved over the past few years could be jeopardised.

A linear increase in pay in the public sector of 3.4 per cent over two successive years contravened the aims of financial planning.

Tax cuts could only be applied, they maintained, if the protective subsidies in all sectors, particularly steel, shipyards, coalmining and agriculture, were dismantled or reduced at the very least.

The Five were in agreement with the basic principles of tax reform, particularly standardisation of wage agreements, but they criticised certain points.

Political considerations for a fair and balanced approach in taxation have gained the upper hand in certain measures, such as the reduction of the first-bracket tax rate from 22 to 19 per cent.

There was an appeal in the report for an extension of reforms in the business sector. Among other things it was suggested that capital transfer tax should be abolished.

Bundesbank policies should be aimed at slowing down the expansion of the money supply in the interests of price stability. They urged that the growth in the money supply, at present eight per cent, should be brought down to 4.5 per cent in 1988.

One of the Five, Rüdiger Pohl from Hagen Unversity, came out with a minority view against this reduction in money supply growth.

Unlike his four colleagues, Herr Pohl said that tax reform should be brought forward and that government should dispense with a further reduction in the public sector share in GNP.

The Five were sceptical about proposals to reduce further the working week. A shorter working week would make a significant difference to the fixed costs on a workplace.

Wage agreements this year have exceeded per capita productivity. Attempts should be made in new agreements "not to increase unit wage costs."

Finally the Five called for more regional and sectional gradations in wage agreements and flexible working hours.

Heinz Murmann

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, Cologne, 24 November 1987)

Action needed as business holds back on investment

STUTTGARTER NACHRICHTEN

There is not much to cheer about in the latest report of the Five Wise Men.

The report expects limited growth and increased unemployment. But it has little new to suggest.

It is as if there had never been a stock market crash and intense fluctuations in currency exchange rates with big losses.

Leaders of industry, such as the Daimler-Benz boss Edzard Reuter, who call for a coordinated international growth plan, are lone voices in the wilderness.

The Bonn government continues to act with untroubled confidence as if optimistic aims were the answer to the rising sense of crisis, particularly in business.

Certainly the crisis should not be talked into existence, but red lights have been flashing for some time.

One signal is particularly alarming: the continued cutbacks in investments, a tightening up all round, and a reconsideration of strategies in case there is a recession.

The government would be short-sighted if it only countered with platitudes. That is no way to win over businessmen, whose investment decisions depend on the ups and downs of the economy, and consumers who should contribute so much to stabilising the economic climate.

The government suddenly finds itself stuck in the same position as the SPD-FDP coalition government was at the *end of the 1970s*.

The pressure is on West Germany, the largest exporter nation in the world, to make a contribution towards overcoming international economic uncertainty.

There is enough evidence around. The American economic weekly *Business Week* asked this probing question on its cover: "Is Germany really doing enough?"

It advised that Germany must pursue purposeful growth policies to protect the world from recession.

The criticism has been vigorously levelled at Germany that everyone understands this except the Germans.

Impatience is growing abroad and West Germany, like Japan, is dependent on exports more so than any other country.

Bonn certainly cannot be accused of sitting back and taking it easy. Much has been done since Chancellor Kohl's government took over in 1982.

The Bonn government has rightly concentrated on tax relief. Next year West Germans will have an additional DM14 billion in their pockets, money that is urgently needed for consumers to be able to support the economy.

It is also true to say that the government has rightly deviated from its strict course of budgetary consolidation.

Wisely, although out of necessity, Finance Minister Gerhard Stoltenberg has made a u-turn and has agreed an increase in the public borrowing requirement considerably beyond the DM30bn limit.

It was a false move to economise in the middle of a downswing. *The world* economic crisis of 1929 *taught that.*

Nevertheless there is no economic crisis management, even in Bonn. Things are falling apart and drying up.

Subsidies will continue to increase next year. They will contribute considerably to new indebtedness in fact, so reducing the room for financial manouevring, if the Bonn government has really decided it must fill the breach.

Certainly no-one is giving a thought earnestly to feeble economic and employment programmes. Experiences in the 1970s were so devastating. The demand for an over-all plan, however, is still there.

There are some things the federal government could introduce. The law promoting stability and growth of the economy allows for a temporary reduction of income tax. Why has this not happened?

That could be the first step to more extensive tax reforms, that should come into effect in 1990. Everything that can be done to bring about early economic growth should be done.

The Americans must economise. We and the Japanese have profited from the boom in demand in the United States. We must not do the same.

The industrialised nations must agree a coordinated strategy. That would be a genuine confidence-creating move. Many are expecting this.

Jens Peter Eichmeier

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 24 November 1987)

■ THE MOTOR INDUSTRY

VW to close American plant: marketing strategy wrong



Volkswagen is to pull out of car manufacturing in America. It is to close its plant in Westmoreland, Pennsylvania.

The decision, taken by Volkswagen of America Inc in Troy, Michigan, has been confirmed by the parent company's supervisory board which met with the Lower Saxon Finance Minister, Birgit Breuel, in Wolfsburg.

The closure had been on the cards for a long time. When the supervisory board met, the decision was no longer controversial. So, 10 years after it started, VW's adventure in America has ended as a flop.

Despite the dollar's decline below DM1.70, which dramatically improved the American plant's competitivity and made West German exports to the US expensive, VW could not hold on.

Cars for the American market will be produced in Wolfsburg in future, according to a pithy company press release.

The Westermoreland plant will be closed down when the last of the 1988 models roll off the assembly line.

The closure will directly affect 2,100 workers and 400 staff employees. The company said that, in cooperation with the trade union, the United Auto Workers, everything would be done to cushion the effect of the closure by re-training and assistance in looking for other jobs.

Inevitably this decision seems to indicate that, except for a small involvement, VW is pulling out of production in America.

Only a small plant at Fort Worth, Texas, employing 400 and mainly involved in producing automobile air-conditioning units, will in future carry the VW name in the country that, for VW, turned out to be a land of limited opportunities.

It is not difficult to fathom the reasons for the closure. Less and less of the plant's capacity was being used and competition became very tough in the American small-car market. Profits have not only become a foreign word in VW.

But unfavourable external conditions are not the whole story. Much has gone wrong in VW itself.

Volkswagen was never able to get a footing in the American market with the Golf, assembled in the Westermoreland plant, against the competition, mainly Japanese.

VW tried to push a variation of the Golf, the Rabbit, on the US market. The attempt turned out to be a fiasco.

The Americans did not ask for an "americanised" Golf but an import when they went to VW dealers.

Management made the mistake of recognising this fact too late in its marketing strategy.

Over the past five years the Westmoreland plant, capable of producing annually 200,000 cars, was working on average at only half capacity, and latterly at only 40 per cent.

This was the situation despite the fact that for a year Jettas have been assembled there as well.

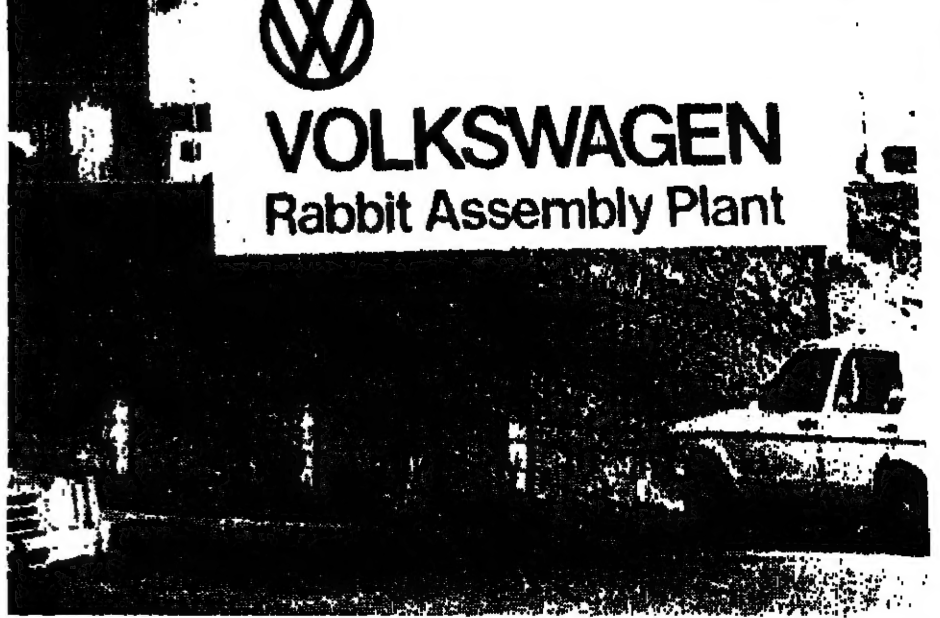
In model year 1987 that came to a close at the end of September no more than 76,000 cars were completed. The 1988 model year will be Westmoreland's last.

According to present plans the last Jetta to be produced in the US will roll off the assembly line in March next year. Production of the Golf and GTI will close down late next summer.

Automobile industry observers estimate that Volkswagen invested more than $650m in the assembly plant. It is believed that a further $200m was pumped into Westmoreland for re-tooling to produce the Golf and Jetta after the Rabbit disaster.

The investment did not show a profit. The plant was only operating at full capacity in two years out of the ten of its existence.

It enjoyed halcyon days in 1979 and 1980 when the oil crisis hit motorists and other automobile manufacturers in America did not have a small car in their ranges.



But the Rabbit didn't run. (Photo: dpa)

At that time 6,500 were employed and more than 1,000 cars were produce daily. At present 400 units are assembled per day.

During this short boom period James McLernon, who came from General Motors, used the upswing to push through Wolfsburg's ambitious expansion plans.

A second plant was built at Sterling Heights, Michigan, at a cost of more than $200m. The plant never went into production.

It was sold off at a knocked-down price to Chrysler when the Rabbit boom evaporated in the middle of falling petrol prices and increasing complaints about quality.

A spokesman for the American subsidiary said that the decision to mothball Westmoreland did not affect in any way Wolfsburg's marketing strategy in the USA or sales targets.

James Fuller, head of US marketing, said in California that next year VW would sell 220,000 cars as against an expected 200,000 vehicle sales this year.

The proportion of US-assembled cars, once 60 per cent of total sales, will drop to between 30 to 35 per cent.

The VW Brazilian subsidiary, Autolatina, will cover an increasing proportion of imports into America.

Next year the Brazilian operation is expected to supply over 70,000 cheap Fox models to the American market.

An agency report said that Fuller denied that discusions were taking place on a closure of the plant.

The controversial supervisory board decision is only consistent with Volkswagen strategy, which involves getting rid of weak operations in the organisation.

There have been two other decisions of similar significance: the sale of the loss-making Triumph-Adler subsidiary to Olivetti and Autolatina cooperation with Ford in Latin America.

Problems are piling up with Autolatina as well. VW and Ford are arguing with the Brazilian government about price increases. They are urgently needed so as to turn up a profit in Brazil at least. The end of the dispute is not in sight.

Uwe Vorkötter

(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 21 November 1987)

Continued from page 5

bureaus and services report time and again that assistance must amount to more than material support.

Young people suffer even more than their parents, who usually speak German and regard the Federal Republic as their true home, from the prejudice of being regarded — or seeing themselves — as foreigners.

"They would like to be good Germans," Frau Kossolapow says, "but they have more in common with the mentality of their countries of origin."

She feels contacts between Germans who have grown up here and ethnic German migrants must be encouraged. Boosting young migrants' self-esteem is particularly important, she says.

Martina Ledwa

(Frankfurter Neue Presse, 3 November 1987)

Domestic demand makes it a bumper year

The West German car industry has had a bumper year despite losses on the American market. Increased domestic demand pushed production and sales to record levels.

All makers have done well except Porsche, which has announced that some workers have had to be put on short-time.

It is expected that the number of cars registered this year will equal or beat last year's record.

In October, 260,000 vehicles were sold, a record for the month.

More and more drivers are buying pollution-controlled vehicles. Without any legal compulsion, every fifth car on the roads is now fitted with a catalytic converter.

According to the automobile industry association (VDA) five per cent more private and estate cars rolled off the production lines in October than in October 1986.

From January to October two per cent more private and estate cars were produced than in the same period last year. Last year a record number of 2.83 million private and estate cars were sold.

Increased production this year was been based on increased domestic demand. Exports dropped by two per cent.

According to a VDA statement there was a slight decline in orders for private cars from export markets this year while the domestic market has been slightly more active compared with last year.

Daimler-Benz and Audi sales in America have dropped. In October Mercedes-Benz of North America sold about 25 per cent fewer cars than in October 1986.

Between January to October this year Audi sold only 37,183 vehicles in the United States compared to 52,411 in the same period last year. BMW also lost sales because of the disturbed financial situation.

Nevertheless, German exporters maintain that they have still had a relatively good year in the United States.

There has been a decline in demand for trucks, but business has improved in this sector. There was a three per cent increase in production in October of commercial vehicles up to six tons carrying capacity.

In the January-October period as a whole, however, there was a 14 per cent reduction in production compared to the same period in 1986.

The production of heavy-duty trucks in October once more dropped by six per cent, but manufacturers of these commercial vehicles have reported a "lively" increase in orders received, according to the VDA.

In the January-October period West German manufacturers of heavy-duty trucks produced one per cent fewer than in the same period in 1986, but exports increased by seven per cent.

More and more vehicles on West German roads are fitted with catalytic converters.

According to statistics from the vehicles registration office in Flensburg 485,000 new cars went on the roads between January and October fitted with converters.

At the end of October last year only every seventh car had a converter, and at the end of October 1984 only one in 35 private cars had them.

The Flensburg authorities classified 80 per cent of the newly-registered vehicles in the January-October period as being pollution-controlled in accordance with German regulations.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 21 November 1987)

■ COMMUNICATIONS

Trail-blazers poised to take telecoms into the digital-technology era

When the first telephone exchanges were installed over a century ago, most people thought the new technology was for telegraphic bureaux, as news agencies were then known, and perhaps for some particularly impatient businessmen.

Few if any reputable firms would dispense with the advantages of correspondence in writing, and would a gentleman with any claim to breeding even consider allowing the interloper to intrude on the peace and quiet of his home?

There might be several hundred potential subscribers to the service in the major metropolitan areas, but no-one for a moment imagined the demand for telephones would amount to more than that.

A new telecom technology, ISDN, is now about to descend on us. The Bundespost is holding a congress in Stuttgart to publicise the advantages of the new technique to a public which is sceptical — although perhaps not as much as it was 100 years ago.

Two ISDN pilot projects are to be launched at roughly the same time. In Mannheim Siemens are in charge of the EWSD project, while in Stuttgart the project will be based on SEL's System-12.

These two prototype ISDN exchanges will provide about 400 subscribers each with telecom services in accordance with the new standard.



From the end of next year ISDN exchanges are scheduled for installation in other conurbations, with 1993 as the deadline for a countrywide network. Whether demand will keep pace with supply is another matter.

Many potential subscribers the Bundespost is keen to interest in the new technology have not even the vaguest idea of how ISDN works and what its uses are. So here too there are similarities with the situation a century ago.

But nowadays, unlike in the 1880s, much more widespread attention is paid to undesirable consequences that might come in the new technology's wake.

Fears are based for one on the assumption that increasingly perfect technical communication systems might have a detrimental influence on social behaviour in a fully-wired society.

For another, critics note that new and more wide-ranging information and documentation procedures will pose new problems for the protection of personal data.

ISDN stands for Integrated Services Digital Network, which means that tried and trusted analog technology is to be entirely replaced by digital technology throughout the telephone network.

This transition corresponds to the change-over from the gramophone record to the compact disc or from conventional recording tape to digital audio tape.

The initial difference in all cases is the same: a substantial improvement in the quality of signals, which are also far less sensitive to interference.

More mechanical parts can be replaced by electronic components and the general performance and capacity of the system is increased severalfold.

In ISDN's case the speed of data transmission is to be increased by an initial factor of 50. On this basis telecom services can then be integrated.

The transmission of speech and data via a single socket, wire and optical cable network will then be a matter of course, whereas at present it is either impossible or subject to strict Bundespost regulations.

The first sign of this integration from the subscriber's viewpoint will be the provision of uniform standards and a single socket via which he can plug into a wide range of services.

They include the telephone, teleprinter, teletex (computer-aided data transmission), telefax, videotex and batch and on-line data relay.

Users of several existing telecom services will be well aware of the chaos that usually accompanies their installation and will welcome the single-socket facility.

The socket will, incidentally, include at least two junctions as a matter of principle, with the Bundespost working on the assumption that this will make sense because most subscribers would otherwise overload the line, using it both for telephoning and, say, for relaying computer data.

In order to encourage intensive use of integrated services subscriber equipment is to be supplied that combines and interlinks existing services by, for instance, enabling teletex copy to be printed out by telefax.

An interesting point in this connection is the use of personal computers as subscriber equipment. The adapters that are slotted into the personal computer already cost only a fraction of the price of the devices they replace.

ISDN will thus make systems compatible that have so far been ruled out as candidates for compatibility.

These, then, are the keynotes of the new network as it is to be supplied, but what about the demand? Who is to use it?

The argument that it will probably automatically prove as useful as the analog telephone did in its day could prove insufficient if the failure of *Bildschirmtext* to emerge as a mass medium is any guide.

Combining the telephone and a TV set with a special adapter, *Bildschirmtext* has signally failed to achieve its target of convincing millions of telephone subscribers of the advantages of home banking or of booking holidays via their TV screen.

The Bundespost has so far aimed ISDN advertising mainly at private telephone subscribers, for whom the new technology will offer a number of extra

Continued on page 9

Last videophone technical hitch solved

Videophone services will be available from the end of 1990, says Posts and Telecom Minister Christian Schwarz-Schilling.

A technical trick can be used to relay colour video signals via a standard telephone wire once the digitalised ISDN network, scheduled for installation from next year, is in operation.

Presenting videophone prototyps in Bonn, Dr Schwarz-Schilling held a 10-minute video conversation with Philips executive Gert Lorenz in Eindhoven, Holland.

Dr Schwarz-Schilling thinks videophones will be widely used before long. They would cost an estimated DM2,000 to DM3,000, plus a monthly rental of less than DM100, he said.

Ministry officials say the rental will be DM74, plus an initial installation charge of DM65, and call charges at twice the cost of conventional calls.

In the past the introduction of a videophone service has been handicapped by limits to the telephone network.

Much wider bandwidths are required to relay TV-style motion pictures than are available via conventional copper cables. An optical cable network used to be regarded as essential before videophone links could be provided.

But scientists have now discovered a way of reducing the bandwidth required. Picture quality has had to be reduced too, but to a tolerable extent, or so Dr Schwarz-Schilling says.

The resolution will correspond to roughly half the TV standard. What is more, movements will be relayed in a somewhat jerky manner.

By means of modern computer technology pictures taken at the usual 25 frames per second will be compressed to 10 frames per second before being relayed.

Chips in the receiver will convert these signals back to 25 frames per second, so avoiding any serious impression of jerky or wobbly movements.

The videophone service will be introduced in three stages. Manufacturers all over Europe will first be asked to supply prototypes.



The Bundespost will buy these prototypes for test runs and join forces with manufacturers in deciding on national videophone standards.

In the second stage, from the end of 1990, several thousand videophones from test runs will be offered to subscribers by the Bundespost and by private switchboard suppliers.

The Bundespost will initially run videophone services on an experimental basis so as to be able to respond flexibly to subscribers' requests and to initial experience.

International videophone standards can then be expected. Once they have been agreed, the final devices will be manufactured.

dpa

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, Cologne, 13 November 1987)

■ COMMUNICATIONS

Satellite fault a threat to TV project

TV Sat 1, the first German satellite designed to transmit programmes directly rather than relay them to booster stations, is in orbit, but only just. It was launched from Kourou in French Guiana by an Ariane rocket but has been unable to function at full capacity because one of its power units, a solar paddle, is not fully extended. At the time of writing it wasn't clear whether this defect could be remedied. If not, the power will only be enough to run two of the four channels planned. TV Sat would then probably be a financial flop.

Views vary on what benefit it will bring even if the project goes ahead as planned. Some see its sky channels as a blessing for the media market; others see it as superfluous, outmoded and too expensive.

A great deal is certainly at stake for the Bundespost, which claims to have invested DM870m in the TV Sat project, as part of which a further satellite is to be launched in two years or so.

Industry is also waiting impatiently for the preliminaries to pay dividends in the form of sales of the special reception equipment viewers will need.

Television viewers in the Federal Republic of Germany are envisaged as being the principal beneficiaries of this technical masterpiece, a miracle of electronics six metres (20ft) tall and weighing over two tonnes, with a wing-span of about 20 metres when its solar paddles are fully extended.

TV Sat, its project planners say, will transmit TV programmes on four extra channels.

Viewers will then be able to watch Sat 1, RTL plus, Eins plus and 3 Sat without going in for cable TV.

Radio buffs will also benefit from daytime satellite transmission of 16 programmes in CD quality — coming soon, as they say, but not just yet.

The satellite was successfully launched on board an Ariane rocket, then manoeuvred into a geostationary position 36,000km above the equator under the aegis of the satellite control centre of the German Aerospace Research Establishment (DFVLR) in Oberpfaffenhofen, Munich.

After a lengthy test phase the satellite will not be ready to handle transmissions before the end of February. Programmes will then be beamed at it via a 13.5-metre dish antenna in Usingen, near Frankfurt.

Viewers will not enjoy the privilege free of charge, and the extra equipment is not yet available. It will several months before manufacturers have long runs of essential components lined up.

The special aerial, [illegible] small dish antenna known as a salad bowl, has in contrast been available [illegible] some time.

TV Sat will transmit programmes so powerfully that a 5[illegible] dish antenna on the roof or balcony [illegible] in the garden is all that will be need[illegible] between Copenhagen and Genoa.

It and the electro[illegible] extras at present cost about DM1,0[illegible] The satellite receiver unit will cost [illegible]rther DM1,500. TV sets with a bu[illegible] in receiver unit should soon be ava[illegible]le; they will cost an extra DM400 or so.

This extra decoder is needed because TV Sat signals will not be in Pal, the German colour TV system, but in D2-mac, the new European standard that is claimed to be a substantial improvement in sound and picture quality.

Radio fans will also have to pay for the privilege — an extra reception unit costing DM1,000.

As the Bundespost is planning to relay all TV Sat programmes (in both standards) via cable TV, cable viewers may well benefit from the satellite before salad bowl-buyers do.

There will be no new programmes, however. The four TV Sat channels are already relayed via other satellites, mainly ECS 1, but can only be seen by individual viewers who invest in larger, uneconomic dish antennas.

French viewers are to be blessed with a TV satellite of their own, TDF 1, next April. But another satellite, Astra, could be the German TV Sat's most dangerous rival.

Astra is planned to transmit 16 programmes all over Europe from next September but will require a larger, 85cm dish antenna for reception.

The Bundespost is already working on a successor system to TV Sat that will line up even more channels. So peaceful but expensive TV star wars definitely seem to lie ahead.

Winfried Weithofer

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 20 November 1987)

Continued from page 8

facilities such as indicating the caller's number, acceptance of reversed charges or collect calls (scrapped in Germany since the introduction of subscriber trunk dialling) or redirecting incoming calls to another number.

These extras may be useful, but it is doubtful whether many private subscribers feel they are worth the extra cost of DM130 for installation and a basic monthly rental of DM74 for the ISDN twin socket.

The conventional telephone costs subscribers DM27 a month. Call charges are extra in both cases.

Most business subscribers are not aching to plug into the new system either. Large firms relay computer data via direct links that will outperform ISDN for years to come, and they have long used efficient individual systems to operate the other services offered as part of the ISDN package.

They will of course replace existing equipment once it has been written down to zero and is no longer up to date. But that could take some time.

As for the self-employed and owners of small and medium-sized firms, who stand to benefit most from the new network, they are particularly ill-informed about what ISDN has to offer them.

Or so an Infratest survey of the market for telephone subscriber equipment in the Federal Republic of Germany reveals.

So it is hard to say who will use the new network. Who stands to benefit from it, has already put it to use and will continue to do so, is in contrast no secret.

ISDN equipment manufacturers — SEL, Siemens, Nixdorf, Philips and IBM — have each invested at least DM1bn in research and development.

They are keen to see their investment pay dividends — and unlikely to be disappointed. By 1990 the Bundespost plans to have invested about DM20bn in ISDN; by the mid-1990s investment in the new network should exceed DM100bn.

Michael Charlier

(Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt, Hamburg, 22 November 1987)

■ SPACE RESEARCH

Europe goes for a manned programme of its own

After lengthy, controversial debate the Research Ministers of the 13 member-countries of Esa, the European Space Agency, have finally decided to reach for the stars and opted for a manned space research programme of their own.

It will be an expensive undertaking. The total cost of Esa's long-term plans is estimated at roughly DM100bn. Bonn has so far committed itself to investing DM8.3bn by the year 2000.

It is hardly surprising, given these financial parameters, that the cost-benefit debate continues even now a fundamental decision has been reached on such ambitious plans.

A satisfactory answer cannot, inevitably, be given for several years. The go-ahead was given mainly on political, not economic grounds. In economic terms the package would already be too great a risk.

Esa's ambitious plans involve three project sectors: further development of Ariane, the European launcher rocket; designing and building the Hermes, a European space shuttle modelled on its US namesake; and participation in Nasa's Columbus project, developed from the European Spacelab.

The only one of the three that is not really controversial is the Ariane 5. Europe has already gained experience in designing, building and launching carrier rockets, so the technology is not a new departure.

If the payload capacity were increased — by designing and building new and more powerful engines — Europe's market position in the lucrative satellite business could be markedly improved.

That would surely be a potential money-spinner, which is more than can be said for the proposed space shuttle.

The Hermes, a French pet project envisaged as being launched by Ariane, does not yet exist as more than a computer blueprint. But the design has already been changed more than once.

After the Challenger disaster, for instance, additional safety precautions were incorporated in the basic concept — with the result that the payload will have to be cut to an estimated 1.5 tonnes.

That is not enough to put a fair-sized satellite into orbit, let alone much else.

Saarbrücker Zeitung

So why go to the trouble and expense? As a mere prestige project it is simply too expensive.

A number of important imponderables still beset the Columbus project. As planned it is to dock at a US orbital station some time in the 1990s. But Washington still insists on a number of conditions that are unacceptable for Europe.

America, for instance, is to retain command over the entire station and to lay claim to commercial rights in respect of research findings from the European part of the project.

What is more, the Pentagon reserves the right to use Columbus for military research.

That is in breach of Esa's articles of association, so we shall have to wait and see what compromises, if any, are possible.

These problems aside, we can be sure that space research is a leading technology, if not *the* technology of the future.

In the long term Europeans will be unable to maintain their status as leaders in industry and technology if they pull out of the field.

Another definite point is that technological integration in Europe can but lend wings to the sluggish process of European integration in general.

That, then, is the political side of the expensive space research medal. The other is that space commitments will shift substantially the emphasis of research policy in the Federal Republic and other European countries.

In the past research promotion has been widely spread even in basic research, a sector of which the importance has been much underrated.

Financial constraints will soon put an end to this state of affairs. By keeping pace in one research sector, admittedly an important one, ground will have to be yielded in many others.

It will be several years before we can attempt more than a guesstimate whether the decision will pay dividends in the long run.

Fred Blinn

(Saarbrücker Zeitung, 13 November 1987)

Continued from page 1

ential than that needed to destroy all life on earth.

The regional conflicts, which at least the Americans seem keen on settling as soon as possible, focus on both Soviet intervention in Afghanistan and the Moscow-backed Communist guerilla movements in Africa and elsewhere.

For its part the Reagan Administration has already made concessions in Central America, where it hesitantly supports the Arias Plan.

A policy of detente is also gradually being introduced vis-à-vis Castro's Cuba.

Washington is simply finding it too expensive to finance and equip the forces it ideologically supports in conflict regions.

The deficit policy via which the USA financed its role as a world power and its prosperity at home can no longer be maintained. The stockmarket crash may only be the first sign of a worldwide crisis if America fails to stop living beyond its means as it has done during the past forty years.

The partnership envisaged by George Shultz includes efforts by both the USA and the Soviet Union to exercise joint control over other countries and in particular the Third World.

Both countries seem to have realised that in future there will be a growing number of powerful groups and powerful individuals with nuclear power at their disposal.

This is the only explanation for apparent Soviet acceptance of the USA's SDI plans, even though Washington has agreed to slow down the development of "Star Wars" systems.

Marlene Manthey

(Kieler Nachrichten, 27 November 1987)

■ MUSIC

Jazz festival gets a blast from critics

Frankfurter Rundschau

The Berlin Jazz Festival '87 again *concentrated on mainstream jazz — to the dismay of many critics.*

Last year critics said that the festival continued to show "reduced artistic standards, a great deal of mediocrity and a flight to the mass produced."

It was said then that at the 1987 festival "more mainstream jazz" would be included in the programme.

This was another way of saying that in principle there would be less music that could cause offence.

All misgivings have been fulfilled. The criticisms of last year can be repeated this year.

Many observers of the Berlin jazz scene did not turn up this year. Those that did agreed that a new low point had been reached.

No-one will dispute that there must be room in a major jazz festival for mainstream jazz, music that has gone into jazz history as the music that appeals to the majority.

But the organisers of a heavily subsidised festival, very much open to criticism, no more have the right to make mainstream jazz *the high point of the* festival than they have the right to exclude the avantgarde from it.

Never before could there have been so few surprises as at this year's festival. Crowds of musicians, some good, some not so good, appeared as if they were entering their own museum.

Others slipped into the shoes of their natural or musical fathers, and more often than not they were a size too big for them.

They copied the music of the past. The nostalgic backward look might well suit the spirit of the times and the cosy entertainment ambitions of the Second Television Channel that was again mixed up with the Festival.

The artistic director George Gruntz said: "We get more cash and we pay more out," and went on to buy up big bands by the half dozen.

Big bands mean less improvisation and more straight numbers, more of the commercial stuff.

Proudly it was said that the Jazz Festival *had rid itself of commercial* entanglements and was now independent.

Then the Philharmonie was transformed into the "Jazz Club Bar" (a television programme regularly presented by George Gruntz" and it ended in pure entertainment.

Previously, also while Gruntz was in charge, new trends were not only taken notice of as soon as they appeared but even started off. There was nothing like that this year.

There was a new LP on sale in the foyer: Rabih Abou-Khalil's *Between Dusk and Dawn,* appearing on a small company label.

It is a mix of Arab music in which excellent jazz musicians from all over the world take part, including a drummer from the Steve Reich Ensemble.

It is a new sound, in no way dissonant, that comes off beautifully and is bound to be followed up.

The most important job the Jazz Festival has to do is to get on to such trends, zoom in on them and present them before they have made their appearance anywhere else.

This calls for the full attention of those who draw up the programmes. It requires sensitivity, a nose for what's going on and plenty of time.

It is easier to revert to what has gone before and a lot safer, particularly if one is very busy in other directions.

Nevertheless there was one group that was a ray of light in the gloom, the Swiss quartet *Schildpatt.* It produced a new sound with a dulcimer, augmented *by a Persian santur and percussion.*

The sound was charming in musical colouring, lively in attack and enriched by vocal additions. From a compositional point of view, however, it was not as mature as it might have been. It lacked balance.

But how the Jazz Festival treated these musicians! They had to play at three thirty in the morning (in the Delphi Cinema).

The few people who were there to hear this Quartet could hardly keep their eyes open. It took an hour to assemble their equipment because only one technician was available for them.

Jazz that was not included in the main stream was pushed to the fringe. The assurance that there were be no main and fringe events, everything was dear to the Jazz Festival management's heart, turned out to be lies through such usage.

The *World Saxophone Quartet* was the only group of significance in the main programme, a tribute to Duke Ellington.

The four saxophonists from New York produced something quite original from Ellington's material.

They got going with sharpness and irony. They juggled with the sounds, breaking and bending them. They developed thrilling passages and brilliant improvisations that brought back to mind the originals.

New blood needed

Hamiet Bluiett linked the pipping sounds he produced on his baritone saxophone with powerful bass tones. He played a kind of chaconne insertion that was a pleasure to hear.

But in the main the Festival was in the doldrums. It's fair to ask if the director of the Jazz Festival, no matter how competent he might be, still has the energy after 15 years in the job, to get out of the rut and tackle things new.

This is a question that jazz critics have also put. The Berlin Jazz Festival is urgently in need of new blood.

A break will occur next year when the Kammermusiksaal will be available to the festival.

The Festival is financially dependent on television stations. One assumes they take public preference into consideration.

Then the part of the Festival that is frightened of risk, that part that is recorded for television from the Philharmonie, should be separated from the whole. A team of young people could then draw up a parallel programme for the smaller hall. This programme would not look at yesterday's jazz from the corner of its eye but creatively dare the new.

Rudolph Ganz

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 16 November 1987)

■ ART SALES

Waiting to see what effect the stock-market slide has

Süddeutsche Zeitung

An admonishment was given by the National Association of West German Art Dealers at the opening of the 21st "Art Cologne" fine arts fair.

The association recommended that no other fairs should be set up. It was a warning to art dealers not to get adventurous.

It was also an attempt by the Cologne organisers to put a halt to art fairs dealing with 20th century art mushrooming all over the Federal Republic. They want to strengthen the Cologne art market and prevent others from getting into the act.

Frankfurt, full of self-confidence and supported by city funds, proposes to open a Frankfurt Art Fair in 1989.

This will compete with Cologne and Basle, the showplace of the largest and most successful festival of classical modern and contemporary art.

Whatever happens in the competition over fairs and markets Art Cologne opened for a marathon seven days.

The fair is mounted in rooms covering 27,000 square metres. There are 167 exhibitors, 47 of them from abroad with strong contingents of art dealers from Austria, Italy and France.

The art in the Cologne fair rooms was exhausting but certainly not nerve-racking.

This was a "beautiful" fair, a delight to the eye, a seduction for collectors of works of assured worth, and this worth *cannot be calculated high enough.*

The sale of the Van Gogh *Irises* in New York was a constant theme for discussion in Cologne. But it was only an elusive and deceptive event on the Cologne horizon.

The influence of the sensationally-priced sale and the stock market collapse cannot yet be foreseen on the art market.

There were plenty of opportunities in Cologne to buy for people who would rather acquire a picture than risk their money on the stock exchange.

They can get aesthetic pleasure and meet their demands for a safe investment at relatively little cost, one or two million marks say.

It was possible to pick up very interesting works by Max Ernst, André Masson, Monet, Picasso, Delauney, Beckmann, Magritte and even Cy Twombly.

There is nothing new about putting money into art works as safe investments. What was interesting in Cologne was how stable prices were and how exquisitely all kinds of art from this century were displayed on the stands, even to old, extremely expensive frames.

There was no trend, nothing that was the hero of the event and what is avantgarde today?

Art dealers concentrated on a single piece. They presented significant discoveries and small groups of works.

They busied themselves with current events — that included the death of Warhol and Masson just as much as a major Giacometti exhibition or the 75th birthday of Emil Sehumacher.

There was little evidence of this year's *documenta.*

We have known for a long time that sculpture can be of interest to collectors, including older works.

The opening up to the past and the surprising price structure of the art market today is made abundantly obvious if Michael Werner displays a work in cement by Wilhelm Lehmbruck from 1917, "Mutter und Kind" priced at DM160,000, and a late Miró sculpture, "Femme — Chien" priced at DM180,000, alongside new sculptures from his artists, a Lüpertz bronze of St Sebastian (priced at DM300,000).

Every artist was included at Cologne — works by Lüpertz, Penck, Baselitz, von Immendorff, Hödicke, Fetting and Middendorf. But they had lost something of their "first appearance" effect.

There were no more grand gestures; instead these artists have taken a more contemplative course.

Works of Fontana's dating from the 1950s were on display among much else at Zwirner and Grewe (at prices that ranged from DM250,000 to DM421,000).

There was a wonderful collection of works by Marcel Broodthaer along with, among other items, Isy Brachot's "Chariot" dating from 1966, priced at DM125,000.

There was a splendid collection of works by Masson at Brusberg and water-colours by Wols (priced at DM50,000 and DM80,000 including the frame).

At Lelong there was a sculpture from Tapiès as well as objects and collages from Kiri Kolar.

Reckermann had on offer French decollages from the 1960s and Marghescu a beautiful selection of Alechinsky's works.

Strelow, exhibiting in Cologne for the first time in ten years, offered abstract works by Schumacher, Uecker, David Smith and a young American, Therrien.

A major group work by Tinguely was on offer from Schmela along with a work by Oldenburg (a new mature piece offered at DM300,000).

Collages and pastels by Nicola de Maria (from DM14,000 to DM20,000) were high points on offer from Thomas. Nearby, almost hidden, there was a small tree study by Franz Marc (DM74,000).

Gmurzynska had lined up exquisite discoveries such as Olga Rosanowa's series of 15 poems and collages, "Das Jahr 1918," priced at DM230,000 and three waxen heads by Metardo Rosso, dating from 1890, around DM300,000.

Other discoveries included: Lario-now's "Schöne des Soldaten" dating from 1909/1910 at Juda Fine Arts (DM380,000) and pictures and drawings by Le Corbusier (DM320,000 and DM20,000) at Dröscher.

Works by young artists were also available at bargain prices.

The classical modern dominated the Cologne Art Fair 1987, expensive indeed, but none the less fresh.

The special exhibition was devoted to 20th century prints from the Kupferstichkabinett of the Prussion Fine Arts Foundation, Berlin.

Ursula Bode

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, Munich, 16 November 1987)

■ FILMS

Scandinavian affability plus a look at Chernobyl through the lens

KielerNachrichten

Lübeck's 29th Nordic Film Festival has ended. The last glasses have been emptied, the prizes have been given.

In fact prizes do not suit this Festival. For years it has been the friendly rendezvous of the Scandinavian film world. Comradeship was much more important than tough competition.

The films that the relations from Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Sweden and Norway brought were regarded as welcome small presents. They were given a place of honour.

For years, however, a public prize has been awarded by a jury made up of readers of the local newspaper, *Lübecker Nachrichten,* a piece of cut glass called the "Lübeck Film Lens."

The Nordic film institutes have themselves established another prize, a drawing from the painter William Heinesen, presented by a jury of West German film critics.

For the past 15 years Bernd Plagemann has presided over the Lübeck Festival. His enthusiasm and optimism have kept people in a good mood, even when the films were rather gloomy and melancolic.

He has now handed over the chairmanship of the artistic management of the Festival to the Hamburg journalist Andrea Kunsemüller.

She did her job with zest and relaxed politeness. She presented every guest and every film with beguiling charm, as if they were a personal affaire de coeur.

It is still what it always has been: people are nice to one another.

In her first year heading the Festival she has made some new and significant innovations to it, however. The slogan for this year's Festival was "Chernobyl," very much a current topic.

She then brought out of the archives the silent film *Berg-Eyvind und sein Weib,* a glance into the past, which she linked to the future. Graduates from Scandinavian film colleges, talented young film-makers, were invited to present the films they had made for their graduation.

The theme Chernobyl attracted considerable public attention. There were three films that dealt with this disaster, *Das Ende der Elchjagd* by the German television journalist Horst Hano, *Der Herbst nach Tschernobyl* by the Danish documentary film-maker Dan Säll and *Bedrohung* by the Swedish documentary director Stefan Jarl.

The nuclear cloud from Chernobyl rained down its radio-active poison over north Sweden. Elks and reindeer will be contaminated for many years to come.

The discussion after the films included, apart from the film-makers themselves, the Swedish actor Erland Josephson, the politician Helga Schuchardt, a former senator for the arts in Hamburg, and Freimut Duve, an SPD Bundestag member.

The central point of the films and discussions was: what effects could these productions achieve, what information could they give beyond what could be read up in a newspaper?

Horst Hano's television film was a piece of reporting of prime importance, bringing the facts and figures together in pictures.

Dan Säll defined his theme sharply and gave less in the way of information. The film was successful although to some extent he filmed the same objects as Hano. He did this with optical suggestion of considerable intensity, introducing the audience emotionally to his theme.

Stefan Jarl moved closer to the subject. He concentrated on the human element, describing daily life and telling the story of individuals, giving some idea of the extent of the catastrophe.

The breeding of reindeer will be impossible for years to come, which robs people over a vast area of their basic food.

The prizes are not a vital aspect of the Nordic Film Festival, but they reflected the reactions of Festival participants.

The William Heinesen Prize, awarded by the jury of German film critics, should, according to its statute, be given to "a creative and surprising contribution" in the main Festival programme.

The surprising aspect of the Norwegian film *Der Fall Feldmann* was its theme. Director Bente Erichsen took a taboo head on.

During the Second World War Jewish refugees died in Norway, then occupied by German troops, while trying to get the help of the resistance to get them over the Swedish frontier.

For a long time official histories took no notice of the facts. Bente Erichsen concentrated on a case that illustrated the events. She followed it up patiently if a little fussily. Still her explosive theme curdled into a worthy film.

The public prize, the Lübecker Film-Linse, went to the Icelandic director Fridrik Thor Fridriksson for his film *Weiße Wale,* indicating that the film successfully stimulated audience reaction.

It tells the story of two men, engaged in whaling, on shore leave.

In a shabby night-time adventure they show themselves as typical heavy drinkers who brood gloomily over their booze.

The director draws them well and with irony until they go under in frustration and rotgut. Then suddenly the action flares up into a shoot-out and a bloody end, a development that fits in neither with the characters' psychology nor the dramatic action. This gives it a superficial, contrived film effect.

The prizes in Lübeck were offered to the two films which were the easiest for the audience to come to terms with.

The films produced in Scandinavia continue to be too full of pathos, often over-burdened with symbolism and sometimes with puzzling camera-work and dialogue that is either profound or garrulous.

Kjell Grede displayed all these qualities in the Swedish-Danish-Norwegian co-production *Hipp Hipp Hurrah,* rustic "Bohème" tale enacted in Skagen telling the turn-of-the-century story of the love for life and love-life of the painter Peter Soren Kroyer and his friends.

Danish director Palle Kjaerulff-Schmidt used his camera just as flatly, superficially and artificially in his *Peter von Scholten,* the only governor of the Danish West Indies colony.

There was talent to be found in many other films; the new film from Vibeke Lokkeberg (Norway) and Lars von Trier (Denmark) and the débute film by Claes Olsson (Finland), but they all still lacked the abilty to tell a story in clear camera language and with conclusive dramatic action.

Everyone was very lenient at the Nordic Film Festival. Pleasure was awakened from playful fantasy and there was an appeal to the good in the world.

This year Astrid Lindgren was there and her energetic, creative enthusiasm infected everyone.

Christoph Munk

(Kieler Nachrichten, 10 November 1987)

Rock 'n' rolling all around East Berlin for half an hour

The selection committee at this year's Berlin Short-film Festival, the 4th, had to cope with 280 entries to select the 70 films that were eventually screened.

There was considerable interest in the Festival in the whole of Europe, east and west, and for the first time there were three contributions from East Germany.

The Festival was organised by the friends of the Stiftung Deutsche Kinemathek and Filmhaus. The budget of DM100,000 was provided partly by the West Berlin senator for cultural affairs and partly from private sponsorship.

The award of the two main prizes at the Festival, the first worth DM15,000 and the second DM8,000, was made possible by Sender Freies Berlin (SFB) and the "Jugendfilm" distribution organisation.

Wolfgang Idler of the organising committee said that the three-day Berlin Festival had attracted attention throughout Europe. Of the 21 countries in Europe almost all of them sent contributions.

Next year Berlin has been named European Culture City by the European Community. Its European dimensions will then be included in the festival name, not Berlin but European Short-film Festival.

The participation of East Germany for the first time was especially welcome because the Festival has been waiting for a film such as Jörg Foth's *Rock'n' Roll.*

In the film's 30 minutes Foth highlights the routine life and moments of glamour of an enthusiastic Berlin rock 'n' roll dance couple.

Foth had the good fortune to come upon two really splendid protagonists, who were totally uninhibited in front of the camera.

As "Judy and Dean" they become big names in the discos and dance halls from one end of East Berlin to another, from Lichtenberg to Marzahn.

Their passion for dancing is just a hobby, not their main job. Judy works in an office and Dean is a roof slater.

The camera, spontaneous and very mobile, catches the atmosphere surrounding them.

Production pressure is in evidence in the whole film. From the word go the injunction is obvious; "Tell as quickly as

DER TAGESSPIEGEL

you can, how you came to dancing — we don't have much film."

Financing and profitability do not play all that important a role in short-films. For this reason there is more room for creativity in this genre than in feature-length productions. This was made obvious again at this year's festival, particularly in three West German productions.

The first was *Time is money* by Berlin director Alexandra von Grote who made *Novembermond.* It is a boisterous parody on the myths of the "Film noir." The plot has a rather affected basic idea, however.

Traditionally Franz Josef Strauss, leader of the conservative Bavarian CSU, makes an appearance at the party conference on Ash Wednesday in the Nibelungenhalle in Passau.

Rudolf Klaffenböck's *Ascherdienstag* (Ash Tuesday) is a camera study of this, unfortunately in a rather denunciatory style.

Not only the director is to blame for the fact that the whole location of the film is like something out of an horror film.

Reinhard Schneider uses all the possibilities of the short-film in his *Der Auftritt,* putting well known things in an unusual light by looking at them in a different way.

The French director Etienne Albrecht swims in the same stream with his *Derivé.* He shows us a man over the roofs of Paris, who would rather see his mansard flat as a ship's cabin. He wants to see huge waves in the neighbouring roof pediments.

In the end the director does his protagonist a favour.

The Polish director Josef Luszpinski wanted to give his film a sense of threat. To this end he decided to go in for fiction.

In his film *Cela* he gives freedom to a despairing prisoner. The escapee finds outside only a desolate, almost empty world.

The earth trembles as in Tarkovskiev's *Stalker.* The associations with atomic war and nuclear contamination are clear.

Swiss director Stascha Baderwith larded his film *Fein Raus* with tired gags; satire can quickly boomerang.

This film showed that not everything admitted to the festival has to have quality.

Jochen Metzner

(Der Tagesspiegel, Berlin, 8 November 1987)

■ MEDICINE

Accident victims: study connects mental attitude and rate of recovery

A Kiel University research team says it has demonstrated that a hospital patient's recovery time can depend as much on state of mind as on physical health.

The findings were made public after a study of accident victims, but the team also thinks that they might also apply to people being treated for other reasons.

Now, 500 people either with Aids or with the HIV virus are being studied in a project expected to take at least five years.

A team led by Dieter Frey, head of the department of psychology, studied more than 200 accident victims.

Patients who brooded over how the accident happened spent much longer in hospital than less-melancholic patients. It was irrelevant how serious the accident was.

On average, wounds of the more worried patients took longer to heal and there tended to be a wider range of serious complications.

The more sanguine patients were sent home sooner, while the patient's state of mind was found to have an even more striking effect on how long an accident victim was off work.

Medical grounds were found to account for only 17 per cent of the length of time accident victims spent in hospital.

When psychological findings are also taken into account, 48 per cent of these differences can be explained.



In other words, the patient's mental state is a far more accurate guide to the length of time he needs to spend in hospital than the serious of his medical condition.

Professor Frey's associates in the project included fellow-psychologist Oswald Rogner and medical research staff, including the chief surgeon at the accident ward of Kiel University Hospital, Professor Dieter Havemann.

Professor Frey and his team dealt in detail with the psychological factors. Patients were interviewed on the day after their arrival at hospital.

Those who feel they themselves were to blame for their accident spend an average 30 days in hospital, as against an average of 20 days for those who don't feel they were to blame.

Those who feel their accident need not have happened also spend an average 30 days in hospital, as against 18 days for those who spend less time worrying on this point and feel the accident would probably have happened whatever they did.

Patients who believe they can exercise positive control over their recovery and forecast how long it will take them spend an average 23 days in hospital, whereas those who lack this self-confidence spend 33 days in hospital.

Professor Frey reports even more dramatic differences in the length of time accident victims are unfit for work after release.

These differences are so extreme that the seriousness of their original accident is no statistical guide whatsoever.

Psychological findings were found to account for these differences in two cases out of three.

Accident victims who feel it is entirely up to them to influence the speed at which they are sufficiently recovered to go back to work do so on average after an absence of 85 days.

Patients who are not persuaded that they can influence their recovery in any way are off work for an average 144 days.

Those who claim to enjoy their job report back for work after 80 days, while those who are less enthusiastic about their job are off work for 170 days.

Professor Frey reaches two conclusions from these research findings, the first being a proposal to employ more psychologists in hospital accident wards to treat patients.

He says they would tend to reduce the average time patients spend in hospital and thus help to cut health service costs.

He also plans a further research project to find out in greater detail how successful this treatment is.

These findings, together with similar cancer research findings and preliminary Aids research findings in the United States, lay the groundwork for an international Aids research project Professor Frey has supervised for six months.

The project, unprecedented in scale, is planned to run for at least five years. In conjunction with hospital staff in Hanover, Bremen and Berlin the Kiel research team are investigating a pool of 500 HIV-positive patients, most of whom are merely virus carriers and not yet suffering from the disease.

The aim is to find out the extent to which psychological variables influence the state of the immune system, when it breaks down and symptoms of the disease occur and how far the Aids victim's life expectancy may depend on his state of mind.

The project is financed by the Schleswig-Holstein Welfare and Education Ministries and by the Federal Labour Office (by means of manpower subsidies).

Project scientists are working in close cooperation with the Schleswig-Holstein Aids commissioner, Professor Reinhard Wille, and with health departments.

The tenet under investigation is whether certain psychological variables may defer the breakdown of the immune system among Aids patients and enable them to live longer.

Specific tenets under scrutiny are that HIV-positive patients live longer when:

- they see a purpose in life,
- they see their illness as a challenge and don't simply succumb to resignation,

Continued on page 13

Link between weather and health found

Some people know when the weather is about to get worse. Their knees ache; or they get migraine or another tell-tale ailment.

Less sensitive people tend to dismiss such ailments as figments of the imagination, but medics and meteorologists have long looked seriously into how the weather affects the body.

Their observations have shown "weather sensitivity" — both the relatively harmless and the more unpleasant varieties — to be a fact.

They have also demonstrated that in certain weather phases serious complaints, especially of the cardiac, circulatory and nervous systems, occur at an above-average rate.

Research staff at the Max Planck Biochemistry Institute in Martinsried, Bavaria, feel they have made major headway in the quest for a suitable yardstick in medico-meteorological matters.

Earlier surveys have concentrated on atmospheric humidity and pressure and the location of warm and cold fronts and failed to establish any closer link with medical phenomena.

G. Ruhenstroth-Bauer, head of experimental medicine at the Martinsried institute, was intrigued by a discovery made by H. Baumer and J. Eichmeier of Munich.

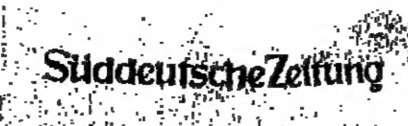
They discovered that spherics, or atmospheric discharges at certain frequencies, can influence the chemical behaviour of gelatine in the laboratory.

Gelatine is a protein, so the Max Planck scientists checked spherics for biological effect and found a clear correlation with the occurrence of a variety of acute ailments.

Scientists are still at odds on how spherics originate, but there seems to be a close connection with the weather, since peak frequency varies in accordance with the weather phase.

Four complaints were checked in collaboration with Baumer, who has constructed a device capable of measuring spherics within a range of up to 500km, and a number of Munich hospitals.

The complaints were epileptic fits,



heart attacks, inflammation of various kinds and sudden deafness.

Characteristic spherics patterns were frequently found to occur on or before the day on which the complaint occurred.

Both positive and negative correlations occurred. In other words, some frequencies occurred very often in connection with the outbreak of one of the four complaints, while others seldom occurred.

The signs are that measuring spherics is a suitable means of monitoring medico-meteorological phenomena, but a causal connection between spherics and the complaint cannot yet be said to have been established.

Max Planck scientists are now trying to simulate spherics in laboratory conditions. If they succeed, the effect could be systematically studied.

We may then have a clearer idea why the weather can be such a burden on so many people.

Andrea Pilz

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, Munich, 19 November 1987)

■ EDUCATION

Unesco's continuing campaign to eliminate illiteracy in the world

Forty-seven delegates from 22 developing countries attended a literacy congress held in Hamburg by the Unesco Education Institute.

The Hamburg institute is the only Unesco facility of its kind in the Federal Republic of Germany.

It provides international coordination and academic support for literacy and education campaigns.

Farida, 11, is a mainstay of her family. Without her the family would find the struggle to survive even harder.

Her father is a poor rickshaw-puller in Dhaka, the Bangladesh capital. Her mother is lucky enough to have a part-time job, so Farida has to look after her eight younger brothers and sisters in the morning.

In the afternoon she works as a babysitter for neighbouring families, earning a few paisas that are essential for the family to make ends meet.

Her life has much in common with that of millions of others in the Third World. Sheer survival is the name of the game, leaving no time for regular schooling.

Yet she and others need not grow up illiterate, the Hamburg congress was told. But unconventional approaches are needed, as has been clear since the late 1970s.

Conventional schooling, with regular, daily attendance, is as out of the question for Farida in Bangladesh as it



is for Juan, a six-year-old Peruvian shoeshine boy, or a young African boy who has worked as a cheap labourer since childhood to help feed the family.

As adults all three will be equally committed to fighting for subsistence and unlikely to be in a position to make good missed educational opportunities in later life.

The result is self-evident. Despite a wide range of literacy campaigns 900 million people are still unable to read or write even though, due to population growth, their number declined from 33 to 27 per cent of the world's population (of school age and over) between 1970 and 1985.

In 1985 Unesco set itself in Sofia the target of eliminating illiteracy by the year 2000, but Unesco experts feel this grand design is unrealistic.

Even modest steps in the direction of this august objective call for new strategies. Off-the-cuff campaigns are not enough.

Experience has shown that nothing less than detailed analysis of living conditions in the areas concerned, followed by programmes flexibly geared to the findings, will achieve results.

Farida has overcome all obstacles and learnt reading, writing and arithmetic. She was able to visit a midday course for two hours a day.

Her fellow-countryman Muktar, who lives in a remote village, walks the three miles to school every other day but spends longer learning to read and write when he gets there.

So he doesn't have to cross the two rivers between home and school every day and can still share with another pupil his job as a herdsman — and earn a few paisas.

Farida uses her new-found skills to read stories to her brothers and sisters. Whether Muktar will ever make use of what he learns is another matter.

Surveys have shown that 40 per cent of new readers, especially in rural areas, forget how to read and write because they have no use for the skills.

Literacy campaigns are expensive, so post-literacy was a concept to which special attention was paid at the Hamburg congress.

Reading and writing as taught, it was told, must be attuned to the learners' everyday needs and lead to a lifetime of further education.

"Our culture is traditionally based on oral tradition," says Aberra Mekonnen of Ethiopia, who like most delegates in Hamburg works for his country's Education Ministry.

"It will be generations before our people come to see reading and writing as a matter of course," he fears.

Lalla Maiga Ben Barka from Mali, where four people in five are illiterate, faces similar problems.

Until a few years ago there wasn't even a written version of Bambara, the most widespread local language.

So it hardly surprising that the rural population in particular find it hard to see the point of learning to read, especially as it takes so much valuable time.

"When women, for instance, rise at dawn and work in the fields and with the children all day, fetching wood and water," says Adama Ouane from Mali, "we must offer them assistance in finding time to learn." He works at the Unesco institute in Hamburg.

So literacy programmes are linked with handy hints to make everyday life easier.

Women in Mali, for instance, were taught how to make simple stoves that used 80 per cent less energy than traditional models.

They now no longer need to spend so much time gathering fuel.

In Colombia, for instance, learners are encouraged to set up cooperatives. They too are labour-saving for the individual worker.

Rural libraries are set up too. "They aren't like libraries in Germany," said Lalla Maiga Ben Barka, "they are cardboard boxes containing a few brochures."

Local language newspapers launched by Unesco in many parts of the world have proved particularly popular. They are frequently the only publication there is in the language concerned.

They feature farming tips and health hints. They also include traditional tales. Many village communities are keenly and actively engaged in publishing the history of their village in the local paper.

"A new phenomenon back home in Mexico," another delegate says, "is that even in slums where people have hardly enough to eat there is a TV set in the home."

It is a new medium the Mexicans would gladly harness to support education programmes. "But it must be done professionally, with popular actors, so educational programmes can hold their own in competition with other programmes."

An Indian delegate takes a dim view of this suggestion. He says TV programmes are too expensive and peak viewing periods are already taken up by advertising.

Besides, radio can establish closer local links than TV, he feels.

Colombia has fared well with links between education and educational programmes on the radio since the late 1940s.

Ulrike Meyer

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 25 November 1987)

Boat people

Continued from page 5

wife, was unfortunately a member of a family in which another member happened to be a colonel. This meant that her children weren't allowed to study.

Today, many groups and associations try to expolit the anti-communist feelings of the Vietnamese refugees for their own ends.

Rupert Neudeck find. it extremely difficult to prevent his committee from being misused in this respect.

Before the meeting in Troisdorf he ensured that no South Vietnamese flag would be hoisted and that there would be no singing of the national anthem of the former regime.

He also emphasised how the Emergency Doctors Committee views its objectives: humanitarian aid without underlying political motives.

He told the refugees in Troisdorf that "we are not going to drop you", but, addressing in particular the political groups, "we are not going to join in with your politics."

Ingrid Müller-Münch

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 23 November 1987)

Continued from page 12

- they are lent social support,
- they feel personally able to control their state of health for a longer period,
- they are optimistic in outlook, and not anxious and depressive,
- and they have successfully coped with a critical experience on a past occasion.

The Kiel research team are also devising a suitable programme of psychological treatment for Aids patients that will in turn be subjected to long-term scrutiny.

Professor Frey and his staff are also working on a preventive programme.

Their aim is to find out how best to get across to the general public the need for behaviour that should rule out infection.

In a nutshell, the problem is how the need to use condoms can best be impressed on people.

How, for that matter, can people be persuaded to make intensive use of Aids advice centres as a preventive measure?

Urs Stahl

(Kieler Nachrichten, 21 November 1987)

■ HORIZONS

Plans to turn Final Solution villa into Jewish memorial

DER TAGESSPIEGEL

On 20 January 1942, senior officials from the Nazi ministries, the SS and the security service assembled in a patrician villa overlooking the Wannsee in Berlin. The meeting has become known as the Wannsee Conference.

The meeting was chaired by SS Obergruppenführer Reinhard Heydrich. The organisers had chosen this harmless recuperation home for SS officers as the scene for settling the bureaucratic and organisational details of the Final Solution to the Jewish question.

The house was built in 1914 and, as was then common, featured a confusion of styles. There were Ionic and Doric columns from the classical era; the stairway was rococo; the ceiling bays on the ground floor were renaissance; and the wintergarden was 19th century romantic.

It was here that, almost as an intermission to festivities taking place in the house at the same time, that the future of 11 million European Jews was discussed. They were discussions that eventually led to the death of six million of them.

The minutes of the conference say: "Within the framework of the final solution and under appropriate leadership, *Jews should be deployed in suitable* ways in work groups in the East. Without doubt, the majority of those capable of work and who engage in tasks in the streets will eventually depart through natural wastage. The remainder would, through natural selection, be the most resistent and, therefore, must be treated in an appropriate manner because they would comprise the germ from which a regeneration of Jews would take place."

So what should be done with this building which, since 1952 has belonged to the inner-city borough of Neukölln which uses it as a retreat for schoolchildren?

Heinz Galinski, the head of the Berlin Jewish community, has for years been campaigning for it to be turned into a memorial. Under Social Democrat mayors, he had little success, but under the present Christian Democrat administration, a broadly based plan has been drawn up under which the Wannsee Villa forms just one part.

Klaus Schütz, a Social Democrat mayor of West Berlin in the 1960s and a former German ambassador to Israel, explained this month to an international meeting of scientists and politicians from the USA, Poland, Israel, Austria and West Germany that the Social Democrats had resisted the idea of a memorial on the grounds that places the Nazis had used should vanish from the face of the earth.

Schütz said, however, that when he was mayor, Jews from all over the world spoke to him about the Wannsee Villa, and it became clear to him just how important the building was to them.

So Schütz supported what Galinski told the conference he wanted: the house to be regarded as a place of European significance and not somewhere which belonged to Berlin or to West Germany.

Galinski said this was not a place the Jews had sought out. It had been forced on them by National Socialism. It therefore should become a memorial to European Jews.

But he warned against what had happened in West Germany where memorials had been erected in memory of both victims and their persecutors. He said Berlin had the chance to create a memorial exclusively for the victims.

The question is: what form should the memorial take? Anti-semitism has a long history; and not only Jews but also gypsies and the mentally ill were killed. And under the policy of *Lebensraum*, millions of Russians and Poles lost their lives. Germans who opposed the regime, both left-wing and conservative, became victims.

The restricted space of a house would make it difficult to tell the entire story. Such a memorial would also be visited more by young people and teachers than anyone else, so it would be necessary to explain contexts and answer questions about National Socialism up until it was defeated.

Galinski would like the villa to be, above all, a place where the achievements of European Jewry would be remembered; where it could be shown just how much European culture lost through the genocide policies of the Nazis.

Berlin used to have 173,000 Jews, which made it the fifth biggest Jewish city in the world. Today it has just 6,200.

But how can the deaths of six million people be presented in a manner which can be fully grasped?

These are the questions being discussed by representatives of *Aktion Sühnezeichen* and leaders of memorials in the concentration camps in Dachau and Mauthausen, of the Yad Vashem in Israel and of the Holocaust memorial which is being built in Washington.

They all agree that the importance of an authentic location, the strength of effect of a place created by history, should not be underestimated. There are fewer and fewer people to tell about the era,



The Wannsee villa on the outskirts of present-day West Berlin where the details of the Final Solution were worked out in 1942. (Photo: Süddeutscher Verlag)

therefore bricks and stones and space must tell the tale.

As long as concentration camp survivors are alive, their stories must be recorded on film and soundtrack. History often only comes alive for young people when efforts are made to present it effectively.

Next to documents and photographs and eye-witness reports, teachers are also so important. They must know exactly what people of what age they should show which parts of the memorial.

All delegates at the conference agreed that the Wannsee Villa should fulfil a teaching role so that young people could be told again and again about the Final Solution so that nothing like it would ever happen again.

It was agreed that the memorial should encompass both the shocking and the positive. There is an another aspect that was made crystal clear. Schütz explained it like this: it must be demonstrated that the murder machinery of the National Socialists could have been stopped by an international campaign.

The Jews who set up Israel must be able to see in the Wannsee Villa that the National Socialists did not have the law on their side.

Rabbi Asher, from San Francisco, wanted to make it clear that the various Jewish traditions that had developed in Germany, the modern, the orthodox, the mystical, had survived in America and Israel.

The example of the influence of Jews on the culture of occidental nations demonstrated what had been destroyed by genocide and what, in the way of ideas, could not be destroyed.

And he said it could be shown that it would have been quite possible for some Germans, with courage and conscience, to help Jews and protect them from annihilation.

How all this can be incorporated into the Wannsee Villa is still not known. Some aspects really belong to a Jewish museum, an idea Galinski has been pushing, in vain, for 15 years. Still other aspects could better be realised in a wider memorial concept such as the Berlin administration is trying to establish.

This includes the rest of the Gestapo headquarters in Prinz Albert Strasse within sight of the Berlin Wall — showing just what the terror led to, the division of Germany and Europe.

Other aspects are better covered in the memorials to the German resistance in Stauffenberg Strasse and the execution centre by the Plötzensee.

The Berlin administration is considering whether to bring all this together and possibly put it under the control of a government-sponsored foundation.

Uwe Schlicht

(Der Tagesspiegel, Berlin, 15 November 1987)

Grunewald, transhipment point for the death camps

Hitler's propaganda minister felt troubled. "Today, Jews are running round Grunewald in gangs," he wrote in his diary after going for a walk in his favourite Berlin forest.

His anger brought a quick reaction. Notices were erected: "Jews are not wanted in our German forests."

An exhibition now in the Grunewald Evangelical parish hall shows the isolation of Jews between 1933 and 1945; how they lost their rights and their property; and how they were taken to their death.

The exhibition, organised by parish members, has photographs and documents and copies of old files. There are interviews with eye-witnesses.

The scene of persecution can easily be reached on foot from the parish hall. The suburb with its villas and upper-middle-class houses in *Gründerzeit* and art nouveau styles is almost intact.

Few bombs landed on Grunewald during the war. Many houses are virtually unchanged from when they were occupied by prominent people in science, commerce, politics and the arts. Franz Kafka, Walter Benjamin, Elisabeth Langgässer, publisher Samuel Fischer and film director Max Reinhard all lived here.

The Nazi terror began as soon as the Nazis came to power. In the Walter Rathenau Oberschule, which was then known as Grunewald Gymnasium, a teacher compiled in a distinctive, steep German handwriting, the names of pupils who had to leave the building under the terms of the "law against over-filling German schools."

Distinctions were made between "Full Jews/ half Jews/ front-line fighters /foreigners."

The "front-line fighter" referred to Jews with good war records. The pupils whose father had been a front-line fighter at least had hope — as letters to the school show.

"I received the Iron Cross in 19..." implored one man in 1933 in a bid to prevent his son, Fritz, from being expelled on racial grounds.

Three years later the school was decorated with a placard proclaiming: "A school with 100 per cent Aryan pupils."

The Tennis-Club Rot-Weiss, then just like now a host for international tournaments, was not the sort of club every Tom, Dick and Harry could join.

A festival brochure from the Nazi era proudly appeared with the picture of a man in a white sports suit: "Our honorary member, Marshal Göring." Paragraph 4 of the club rules stated that club members "cannot be people who are not of German or of aryan blood or who have not been granted such status."

Just a few paces away from the play-

Continued on page 15

■ FRONTIERS

Children try to cope with 'stigma' of having an unemployed father

Humphrey Bogart, with his inimitable smile and felt hat pulled characteristically low down over his brow, leans in the corner of the Cologne Unemployment Centre.

The people in the Centre are tormented with matters quite different to those that troubled Hollywood's rough diamond in his famous farewell scene in *Casablanca*.

There is a notice on the cardboard figure of Bogart that reads: "Take any job." Above it is the trades union notice, decorated with the sun, appealing for a 35-hour working week.

No-one takes much notice of the life-size cut-out of Bogart in the canteen. The regular visitors, unemployed men and women, who meet in the Centre once a week for coffee, have long got used to the cardboard figure of Bogart.

One of them is Siegfried Möller (the names in this article have been altered). He is one of the two million or so unemployed who is prepared to talk about himself and his problems. His three children are also affected by his wretched situation.

Sven, aged 5, Isabell, 8, and eleven-year-old Cordula are among the 1.4 million or so children named by the Workers Welfare Association at a conference in Bonn as "Children of the Crisis."

The experts said that unemployment was faceless. They maintained that people concerned crept away into a corner out of fear of being stigmatised, rather than joining together and rebelling against their situation.

Even in the small village of Friesoythe in Friesland, that has a record unemployment figure of 40 per cent, people go to considerable trouble to conceal the fact that they are out of a job.

The men in the village do not dare go out into the garden until after five o'clock so that the neighbours don't get any ideas.

The citizens of Friesoythe also believe that they know who are responsible for their being unemployed. They are not Bonn politicians or company managers anywhere; they say that the Turks are to blame, although there are hardly any Turks working in Friesoythe.

Little research has been done on what effect a father's or mother's unemployment has on the children. There has only been one study along these lines and that is now three years old.

Fundamentally there are only two other groups about which less is known: the wives of unemployed men and unemployed women.

Family Affairs Minister Rita Süssmuth spent 45 minutes with the Bonn conference of the Workers Welfare Association. All she had to say was that she was glad that the Welfare Association had taken up these problems. But she had no solutions at the ready.

She spent the rest of her speech appealing for tax reform that would, in the final analysis, only be of benefit to those in work.

The conference participants, concerned with the jobless, looked on this statement with some cynicism.

Sigfried Möller would not have got excited about this. He feels that he has been let down by the politicians.

Möller is 39. He said: "Put down 40, it's the same thing. At 40 you're thrown on the scrap heap."

Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger

He is a skilled manual worker and has been unemployed for two years. His wife Karola lost her job a year ago. The work she did is now done by a machine. She has now given up hope of finding a permanent job.

The family of five has to make do on DM2,000 a month, unemployment and children's benefit, instead of DM4,500.

On the advice of officials at the unemployment exchange Siegfried Möller did a re-training course for a programmer last year.

Afterwards he was told by the labour exchange that "Programmers were like grains of sand on the shore." He has a difficult time coming to terms with this contradiction.

For the Möllers unemployment means daily arguments over money. They try to be economical where it is possible, particularly before the first of the next month.

Siegfried Möller has given up smoking. The family goes shopping once a week in a shabby old car.

While other children wear running shoes from Nike and sweat-shorts from Benetton, the Möller children have to be content to have the throw-aways that the neighbours have left in plastic bags at the front door. Or what their father has been able to pick up from the old clothes centre in the town.

Siegfried Möller said: "I'm well known there. As a jobless person you are not a German nor a Turk."

The children also know what it is like to be excluded from things. According to the Child Protection Society the children are just as badly effected by unemployment as adults.

Parents can get over the pressures put on them by a consumer society. They know how to do without a video and their world does not fall apart if they do not have a car.

But children of school age, and even kindergarten toddlers, are no longer part of the norm in society. They feel themselves to be outsiders.

They are no longer like the others. They have less pocket money than their school friends and when it comes to a class outing they are regularly "unwell."

They say nothing about their last holidays. They only feel ashamed. They tell lies when they discuss among themselves what their fathers do.

To this can be added the tense atmosphere at home. Siegfried Möller goes to the Unemployment Centre mainly to be with other people. He says quite frankly how his family and marriage are put under stress.

"It's a queasy feeling being regarded everywhere as a beggar, and to realise that your wife has thought about separation. I have myself but the children need us both," he said.

What happens when there is a bad atmosphere at home every day? Möller shrugged his shoulders. "The children don't speak about it. They just say that mom and dad are fighting about money again because dad doesn't go to work," he answered.

He thought for a moment. "I think that secretly they wished I had more time for them."

He believes that he has certainly not devoted as much time to his children as he really could have done.

"I'm too worried and impatient. The first three months were fine. It was like a long holiday. But then you get a dead feeling. You fall into a rut. It's probably like what a housewife feels when the children have grown up and left home," he said.

Not all unemployed men look upon their situation in these serene terms, and equate their feelings with the experiences that are routine for women.

They feel that they are no longer needed and the worry of not being able to cope with the financial worry makes many loving fathers into family tyrants, unafraid of giving way to their despair by being brutal to wife and children.

Cases have been reported of children who have been almost beaten to death for nothing.

Apart from failures at self-control of this sort children find it difficult to cope with the radical changes that are brought about because of their father's long-term unemployment.

This is perhaps more important because they can defend themselves against beatings.

Many react to their sense of powerlessness by drawing into themselves. They refuse to take part in life as they should. Their school work suffers and many escape into a rosy world of fantasy.

Many teachers do not take too much notice of this visible change in the schoolboys and girls in their charge. Many, perhaps knowingly, close their eyes, because they believe that people are themselves to blame for being unemployed.

Then they are not prepared to be "family helpers," doing work for which they are not paid.

In a survey of teachers in ten secondary modern schools in Reutlingen not one of the teachers could name which of their pupils came from homes where the parent was unemployed.

The president of the Child Protection Society, Bärsch, said that it was a scandal that no teacher became suspicious when the same children all the time did not take part in special trips and class outings.

He said: "If I were a teacher and I could not do something so that everyone could go out with the class then I ought to stay at home."

This ignorance is common among teachers in Cologne as well. Once Isabell, the second oldest in the Möller family, had to write a little essay about her parents.

She went into considerable detail about her mother's housework and she just had one sentence about her father. "He leaves the house in the morning."

That was not enough for Isabell's teacher and he asked her to explain herself in front of the class, but she would rather have had a bad mark than admit that her father was unemployed.

Like Isabell, the eldest daughter Cordula has had to go through some unpleasant situations. When the class went swimming she would rather leave the pass at home that gives her free admittance to the public swimming baths because her father has unemployment benefit.

Unlike her father, who is delighted with every mark he can save, she regards the pass as official confirmation that her family is drawing social assistance.

She has had hard words thrown at her in the school playground.

Only since she has changed schools and is no longer the only one with the free pass is she no longer shy of presenting it.

No-one threw any light on the question whether children such as Isabell and Cordula were happy that they now belonged to a new social problem group, robbed of much-longed-for normality.

There was no-one there who could have answered this.

Claudia Meyer

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, Cologne, 7 November 1987)

Continued from page 14

ing fields of Tennis-Club Rot-Weiss are the goods yards of Grunewald railway station. Between 1941 and 1945, more than 50,000 Berlin Jews were transported from here to the death camps. Consignment notes accompanied the human cargos:

Type of packaging: railway wagon

Description of goods: prisoners

Actual gross weight, kg: 25,000.

Next to this in the exhibition hangs a message from the "Führer-Hauptquartier" in which an official thanked colleagues in the Transport Ministry: "It gave me special pleasure to read in your circular that every day for 14 days a train containing 5,000 members of the chosen people has left for Treblinka."

He hoped that in the future, it would be possible "to carry out the population transfer at an accelerated speed."

The chosen people were mostly taken by trucks to loading ramps, some of which are still there today. Sometimes, they had to walk the last stretch. This took them past the villas and elegant apartment blocks.

A woman who lived there told in a radio interview later about a long line of women and children watched over by SS men as they walked past: "They were ashamed. They walked with heads bowed. We were all ashamed… there was something sinister about it. We just looked straight ahead. It was worst with the children. You expected them to be lively. But they came past without saying a word."

It wasn't easy to keep the eyes averted and not to hear anything in those days, not even here in Grunewald, far from the hustle and bustle of Berlin's city centre.

Kristina Behnke, the initiator of the exhibition, spoke with many long-time residents in the area.

One woman remembered from her childhood: "When the Jews were suddenly not there any more, my mother said they had gone travelling."

She hadn't quite believed the answer and probed further. Her mother pacified her by saying: "Oh, well, they must have gone somewhere."

Every day in Grunewald there were rumours of suicides among Jews threatened with transportation.

One woman remembers as a child receiving a visit from her friend, Ulla Goldmann, a Jewish girl: "She came one afternoon and said: 'My father has shot himself. At least that means they can't get him now…'"

Birgit Loff

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, Cologne, 14 November 1987)